



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	2135
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	2135
15-16(3) - Fuel Price Adjustment for All Non-Government and Community Government Customers in Communities Served by PPD (M. McLeod)	2135
16-16(3) - Homelessness Initiative (Lee)	2135
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	2136
Public/Private Partnership Policy (Bisaro).....	2136
Mackenzie Valley Highway (Yakeleya)	2137
Eligibility Regarding Medical Travel (Jacobson)	2137
NWT Opportunities Fund (Hawkins)	2138
Coordinate Youth Budget Activities (Beaulieu)	2138
Proposed Board Reform (Ramsay).....	2139
Supplementary Health Benefits Program (Groenewegen)	2139
Alternative Energy Initiatives (Menicoche)	2140
SideDoor Youth Centre (Abernethy)	2140
Alternative Energy Initiatives (Bromley)	2140
Increased RCMP Presence in Communities (Krutko)	2141
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	2142
ORAL QUESTIONS.....	2142
REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	2152
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS.....	2154
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	2173
ORDERS OF THE DAY	2173

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, February 11, 2009****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 1:36 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Colleagues, as a reminder for yourself and our guests in the gallery, we have interpreters with us today. Channel two is Gwich'in, channel three Tlicho. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 15-16(3):
FUEL PRICE ADJUSTMENT FOR ALL
NON-GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY
GOVERNMENT CUSTOMERS IN
COMMUNITIES SERVED BY PPD**

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Around the world, market prices for petroleum products have dropped substantially since the summer of 2008. Unfortunately, many of our remote communities have yet to benefit as fuel has not been purchased and delivered to them at the current lower prices.

Under the existing FMB approved pricing guidelines, the costs of purchasing, transporting and delivering fuel is recovered in the retail prices charged to customers in communities served by the petroleum products division. Prices are normally adjusted after each annual resupply to reflect the costs of the fuel purchased for resale.

In light of decreasing fuel prices worldwide, and in order to reduce the cost of living in our communities, there is a recognized need to pass a portion of projected future cost savings onto our customers as soon as possible, well before the annual resupply adjustments take effect.

Mr. Speaker, effective fiscal management has allowed the petroleum products division to

accumulate a modest budget surplus. This surplus will be significantly reduced to immediately lower the price of heating fuel and gasoline and provide relief to those customers most affected by the high cost of living in our remote communities.

On January 26, 2009, the petroleum products division reduced the current retail prices of heating oil and gasoline by 16 cents per litre for all non-government customers and community government customers. This will result in retail prices that better reflect the recent decline in the market cost of fuel. More importantly, it would immediately reduce the cost of living in the 16 communities served by the petroleum products division.

Mr. Speaker, all communities served by the petroleum products division will see further retail price adjustments after their annual 2009 resupply. For those communities resupplied by the winter road, the adjustment will take place this spring. For those communities resupplied by barge, the adjustment will be in the fall of this year.

Mr. Speaker, if current prices for petroleum products continue, additional reductions in the retail prices for fuel can be expected in 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 16-13(3):
HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE**

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to share with you some of the initiatives the Department of Health and Social Services has undertaken in the area of homelessness. The Small Community Homelessness Fund is an application-based program currently supporting five projects that benefit homeless individuals in small communities.

The projects include:

- \$10,000 in funding to the Rae-Edzo Friendship Centre in Behchoko for a lunchtime soup kitchen Monday through Friday;

- \$30,000 in funding to the Salt River First Nation in Fort Smith for the renovation of a homeless shelter;
- \$10,000 in funding to the Acho Dene Koe First Nation in Fort Liard for a "Winter Warm-Up Project" where hot nutritious meals are served on a weekly basis;
- \$9,900 in funding to the Zhahti Koe Friendship Centre in Fort Providence for the creation of a Youth Cafe where youth receive hot meals several times per month;
- \$41,900 in funding to the Pehdzeh Ki First Nation in Wrigley for food vouchers for the homeless and the renovation of a church basement for use as an overnight shelter.

As well, Mr. Speaker, in response to the GNWT Framework on Homelessness, the Department of Health and Social Services implemented the Homelessness Assistance Fund in 2006.

The Homelessness Assistance Fund has been well accessed this year by homeless individuals requiring transportation to another community where they will no longer be homeless. The Homelessness Assistance Fund also has assisted numerous individuals at risk of becoming homeless by providing funds on a short-term emergency basis.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services recognizes that homelessness is a complex and varied issue that cannot be solved in isolation.

In recognition of the complexity of issues relating to homelessness, the department works in collaboration with other government departments to address homelessness across the NWT.

The department is the lead of the GNWT Interdepartmental Homelessness Committee, which is comprised of members from the departments of Justice, Education, Culture and Employment and the NWT Housing Corporation. The Interdepartmental Homelessness Committee has begun the work of revising the GNWT Framework on Homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the lack of access to public washrooms for homeless individuals has been raised as an issue in Yellowknife. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that the Interdepartmental Homelessness Committee is working with the chairs of the Homeless Coalition, officials at the City of Yellowknife and with the Chamber of Commerce to develop short and long-term solutions.

The department continues to be an active member at the table of the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition. This active group was the force behind

the concept and construction of Bailey House Transitional Housing Project for homeless men and now is directing its energy toward developing a similar service for women.

Mr. Speaker, the department continues to work collaboratively with business, non-governmental agencies, communities, aboriginal groups, and all levels of government, with the shared vision of addressing the issue of homelessness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP POLICY

MS. BISARO: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's no secret that Canada and the NWT, by default, are in the midst of a huge economic downturn. Members and Ministers alike have spoken about it often this last week, but if there is something we can be happy about it's that we, the NWT, are to be the recipients of a sizable amount of funds from the federal government, the results of that government's efforts to stimulate our economy. I know that our government intends to use these funds to their fullest. This money will allow us to start more projects and start them sooner than planned, but it will also put significant stress on our ability to complete all of our intended infrastructure projects.

Both GNWT staff and local businesses will be pushed beyond their normal limits. Some of these projects will be large ones and it's quite likely that we will look for and find willing partners, industry partners, to help us bring them about.

Business facilitated projects will become more and more common in the future. As well, as northern businesses grow and expand, GNWT is going to receive proposals from these businesses to enter into partnerships with them. We currently have a proposal from the Alberta company ATCO Group in regards to a potential partnership with the NWT Power Corporation.

In my view, it's imperative that before we enter into any agreement with any partner, that the government has a well-established, well thought out policy for public/private partnership; P3s.

Yet, as of this time, GNWT still does not have a policy to guide us in entering into, negotiating, administering and overseeing P3 projects and it's long past due for us to have one. In this year of

more than the usual infrastructure dollars and the resulting more than normal number of projects on the table and with the federal government's emphasis on P3 for Building Canada Fund dollars, finalizing a P3 policy should be a top priority for this government. Why is it not a priority? What is holding it back? I don't think we want to get caught. We definitely don't want to get caught with a too-good-to-be-true proposal from someone for a Mackenzie Valley Highway, for instance, and no P3 policy to ensure that the deal we sign is a good one.

Without a comprehensive P3 policy, we risk entering into a contract that does not make the best use of our dollars, does not create efficiencies for the project and lacks the necessary financial security for the government and, by extension, our residents.

Goodness knows we do not want to sign our financial lives away as we did for the Deh Cho Bridge and, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the lead Minister for infrastructure later on. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today is in terms of something that has been discussed throughout the last Assembly and could be some discussions around this Assembly in terms of our meetings. It has to do with the legacy of this government here, the legacy of the people of the Northwest Territories. I am talking about the legacy that would make a big difference to the people's lives down the Mackenzie Valley as we continue on with the construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

Mr. Speaker, the issue here for myself is in terms of who is to gain and who is to lose in terms of not having some serious discussions about building the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Mr. Speaker, there has certainly been some strategic investments along the Mackenzie Valley route from Inuvik to...Sorry, from Wrigley to Tulita up to Norman Wells, Good Hope and further up the Mackenzie Valley here in terms of putting in permanent bridges in terms of looking at when this road could be built as people in the region who desperately want to have one. There are so many benefits of putting together a highway proposal, so many opportunities out there. It's been said many times that the road here could reap many benefits for the people up and down the Mackenzie Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that according to Connecting Canada, in the 2005 proposal, that the federal government could gain up to over \$13 billion in tax and royalties if this road was built in terms of opening up the economic development in the Mackenzie Valley. They would be the biggest winners in terms of having this highway built. There have been many discussions as to how this highway could be built in terms of financing, in terms of P3, in terms of the government making a royalty sharing deal with the people of the Northwest Territories. There's been private organizations working with the aboriginal groups to see how they could finance this project.

Mr. Speaker, the time is very right right now in terms of talking about a Mackenzie Valley Highway and having some serious discussions with the people of the Northwest Territories as to how this dream can become a reality within the life of this government to at least get the road open for the people in the North. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ELIGIBILITY REGARDING MEDICAL TRAVEL

MR. JACOBSON: Today I come to the House and I got a call last night regarding one of my elders in the community of Tuk having to wait. This individual, she's an elder, she's over 60 years old. She has TB and cancer. She's been waiting to leave our community of Tuk on a scheduled flight to Inuvik to get a blood transfusion. The plane was cancelled due to not enough passengers the first day. The next day they get a call from the health centre stating the airline called and said they're not coming into the community again due to the passengers weren't there, so they didn't come in again. She finally made it out of the community two days later. To me that's not acceptable. Who draws the line in regards to medevacs? This lady should have been medevaced out of the community and into Inuvik to get proper care and attention.

Another thing in regards to the medevac contract, when it comes up, policies and procedures should be looked at from the Department of Health and Social Services at the time of the contract being awarded again. This is not only Tuk. This is also my other communities that are having the same problem. Who decides who gets medevaced out of the community? This is an elder. This is just not right. Unacceptable. At the appropriate time I'll have questions for the Health Minister.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NWT OPPORTUNITIES FUND

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, recently there has been a decision to loan \$34 million out of the Opportunities Fund. I'm personally not pleased that by this process it has been done without Members' knowledge and we were always kept in the dark. I won't get into the merits of should the money have been lent to this group, but more to the problem of why we weren't informed earlier and what we are going to do in the future.

I feel, as many others feel, that we were kept in the dark until the contract was signed and all they were worried about was the official announcement and, oh, by the way, maybe we should inform the MLAs. By the time I found out, that decision had already been made and there was no room for discussion by process.

The Opportunities Fund, as many people know and have come to learn, is a fund to use to leverage federal dollars to make cash for this government. That sounds great to me, but a lending program like this should never operate under the cover of silence without Members being informed about a deal prior to the deal being finalized; not now and not ever.

Going forward, the Minister of ITI must realize that this whole Legislature is on the hook when a decision is made behind closed doors. Whether it goes good or bad, the results will fall on all our shoulders. This must end.

Oddly enough, we do have the tools to operate by better rules. We have the Financial Administration Act where we can find those rules and guidelines. I stand here today and clearly say that nothing can be better accomplished on this file than saying we will set rules in place to make sure this never happens again.

I do not want to hear that the Minister will do this again. I want to clearly hear that the Minister will not operate in isolation again. He may have had the power to do this, but perhaps he should have thought about the magnitude of this loan. That alone should have set off bells by saying maybe the Members should be informed. This must end.

Under section 67(1.1) of the Financial Administration Act they discuss loans of over \$500,000 and giving Members 14-day notice. Under section 5, guarantees and indemnities and regulation, it talks about informing Members, giving them maximum liability information and proposed addendums. The rules exist; let's start applying them.

I look forward to questions later today with this Minister and getting his full commitment that they

will not proceed with this type of loan in the future without contacting Members.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
COORDINATE YOUTH BUDGET ACTIVITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: [English translation not provided.]

Today my Member's statement is about the youth of Tu Nedhe and the need to have a coordinated approach for the youth spending in this government.

This government has responded to the need to invest money in the youth and it's time now to have all of those budgets coordinated. We should not fall into the trap of each department doing their own thing as far as youth are concerned. We have a Minister responsible for Youth that must coordinate all budgets and activities from the various departments where youth budgets lie. Those departments are departments like Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services, MACA, and any other department that is working on investing in the youth of the NWT.

This government's investment in the youth is very important for the future success of the whole Territory. On July 18th, 2008, I asked the then-Minister of MACA to hire youth staff to assist the communities in completing items such as youth surveys. I realize that the Minister-of-the-day was not able to commit to hiring youth staff. At that time there was no money in the budget for it. However, now the time may be right.

On October 8th I asked the Minister of MACA to increase youth budgets and look at how youth budgets were allocated specifically for my communities in the Tu Nedhe. In addition to responding to the questions, the Minister committed to working on a youth strategy for all communities in the Northwest Territories.

On October 22nd, 2008, I asked the Minister of MACA to look at youth programs for smaller communities and again asked the Minister to work with the communities on youth strategies. Today I will have more questions as it pertains to youth and the need for this government to have a focal point that is the Minister of Youth.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

Thank you, colleagues. I know there is a plan to hire two youth workers. A few of those workers should work directly for the Minister of Youth and

be responsible for coordinating all youth funding and to ensure that all the money that is targeted for youth is spent on the youth and spent to benefit the youth across the Territories. Later today I will have questions for the Minister responsible for Youth.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED BOARD REFORM

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak today about the government's move to amalgamate boards across the Northwest Territories. The stated goal by this Cabinet is to go from 70 boards to seven. The model being presented is based on the Tlicho Community Services model and would be implemented in seven geographic regions across the Northwest Territories.

The government's plan and process that they have embarked upon is full of holes. The consultation, if you can even call it that, is a one-sided approach that is nowhere near meaningful. There's been no clear, compelling indication of what the problems are and what it is that you're trying to address.

To the school boards in Yellowknife consultation has been a few restrictive, poorly worded questions that follow preconceived directions. There has been no opportunity to meet directly with the government as was promised. There's no research shown in the documents provided; no data or data analysis is offered to justify directions proposed, and a lack of understanding on the proposed regional board's governance. There's no financial plan or human resource plan or a costing of a regional board approach. Added to this are some impossible timelines. How can adequate consultation take place with all of these boards in a two-month time frame?

The GNWT sent out its package on January 29th without the much-needed face-to-face meetings with boards. How can the government make a final call on this by April 1st? To me, that's simply impossible.

Once again I have to stand up and ask this government why they just don't seem to understand the reality that you must do all the groundwork, costing, and analysis prior to shopping an idea like this that would impact so many people across the Northwest Territories. On something as large as board reform, we owe it to our residents, to the stakeholders, to be able to answer questions.

We can't be lazy or allow sheer political determination to rule the day. Our citizens won't subscribe to it and I personally will not subscribe to

this way of doing business. We must do better than what appears to me to be just another pathetic attempt at consultation.

This makes me think back to my days at university when one of my political science professors told the class that if a politician wants to end their political career, all they need to do is cause upheaval within education or health care. In our case, this Cabinet seems intent on throwing housing in for good measure.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, not to belabour the supplementary health benefits issue, I need to bring emphasis one more time to a certain segment of our population that will be negatively impacted to a change to supplementary health benefits if those income thresholds and caps are left in place.

I know the Minister has agreed to take the supplementary health benefits review back to the drawing board and not to implement anything until after extensive consultation has taken place and the stakeholders' concerns have been taken into account, and none of that is going to happen before April 1st, 2010. I do thank the Minister for that. I do again thank the seniors of the Northwest Territories who mobilized in such an effective way to address this concern. It was amazing. It really confirms the saying of grey power. They were amazing with their petitions and their very thoughtful and insightful questions.

Mr. Speaker, there is another group of people in our society that were potentially going to be negatively impacted by this Supplementary Health Benefits Program change. I want to just, by my Member's statement today, bring emphasis to that group. That is the group of persons with disabilities. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents in Hay River who have contacted me with disabilities, I just again want to make sure that any consultation, we'll make sure you contact the NWT Council for Persons with Disabilities. Many disabilities that are health-related require specialized equipment, medication, things that can be very expensive. It may not strictly fall under the chronic condition, but it is persons with disabilities. Today, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to emphasize that this sector who has not received perhaps as much attention as the impact on seniors, that we keep this group in mind as well and that the consultation expands and take into account their concerns.

I have a constituent in Hay River with a disability whose household income does exceed \$50,000 a year, but, trust me, they would never be able to survive with their needs for medication and equipment if that service, if those benefits were removed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INITIATIVES

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I have spoken out in support of the government's proactive approach to developing clean energy initiatives. Investment in alternative energy, hydro, wind and biomass are necessary if we are to move away from fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These investments will also support communities in completing their community energy plans which will identify ways to reduce energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Fort Simpson is developing its energy plan and has identified a number of goals to reduce its energy consumption and utility costs. They include working with the local Chamber of Commerce in investigating the potential of alternate energy sources such as geothermal energy, supporting the use of residual heat recovered from the NWT Power Corporation diesel generators, promoting recycling to reduce the volume of materials in the local landfill.

Mr. Speaker, these community initiatives line up closely with the government's recently announced energy priority. I am optimistic that there will be funding and expertise and resources to work in partnership with the community of Fort Simpson to realize these very important goals. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SIDEDOOR YOUTH CENTRE

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I arrived today to draw attention to the SideDoor Youth Centre and the good work that it is doing for the people of Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Now in their 14th year, the SideDoor provides shelter and a safe haven for thousands of youth annually. SideDoor began in 1995 in the basement of the Anglican Church in Yellowknife as a hangout for youth who would otherwise be on the street.

Since then it has grown and now offers a number of programs from its own facility on the corner of 49th Avenue and 49th Street. Its programs serve young people from ages five to 19. The SideDoor's programs address the needs and services of youth ages 16 to 19 who are too old for child welfare and too young for social assistance and tend to fall through the cracks.

The care and dedicated staff has a passion for youth who struggle in our community. The SideDoor is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. It offers one-on-one counselling, laundry, showers and a place for youth to stay overnight. It enforces a zero tolerance drug and alcohol policy and homeless youth who are struggling are encouraged to seek employment and develop skills to help them live independently. Junior SideDoor is a free afterschool daycare service for children from five to 13 to provide kids with snacks, structured and free time activities, and a warm, supervised place to play. Summer day camps offer recreational activities for children free of charge.

The SideDoor's programs are preventative in nature, giving young people a constructive alternative to the streets, crime or any amount of police activity when what they really need is food and a safe place to rest.

The SideDoor provides safe shelter, emotional support, and increases the health and dignity of downcast and victimized youth.

Mr. Speaker, the SideDoor is located in Yellowknife but regularly welcomes youth from all across the Territory. It is the only youth drop-in centre of its kind in the region. The programs and services are effective and, most importantly, have gained confidence of the youth themselves. The SideDoor is taking care of our young people and they are shaping our future. I would like to thank and applaud them for their dedication to our youth. They are appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INITIATIVES

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories relies heavily on imported fossil fuels to meet our energy needs. Community resupply last year cost us about \$22 million. Were we to include oil and gas for O and M, we would be over \$50 million per year. In addition, our economy loses when we send this money south and then environmental, social and more financial costs accrue when we add to rather than reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

Mr. Speaker, peak oil is the point and time where we have used half of the world's oil supply, the cheapest path by far. At the peak, the cost of fuel will rise dramatically. Optimistic estimates indicate peak oil will occur by 2017. Pessimistic views say it has already happened. Many middle of the road estimates figure peak oil is happening now. Back when world consumption was five billion barrels a year, we discovered reserves of 30 billion per year. Now we consume over 30 billion barrels a year and discover only about five billion. We have not made a giant discovery of oil for over a decade. Fairly, we need to reduce NWT reliance on fossil fuels. The current recession broke our ever-increasing demand for oil and the cost per barrel has plummeted. However, Mr. Speaker, Mark Carney of the Bank of Canada predicted our economy will be roaring in 2010, a year from now. Others believe the recession will last two or three years. This leaves us only one or two years of cheap oil before we can expect high and erratic oil prices once again. Many say we have not seen anything yet on what can happen to the price of oil, but surely we have seen enough.

Mr. Speaker, there is much in the budget before us on energy initiatives. I applaud these efforts. My intent today is to underscore the opportunity we have during possibly the last period of cheap oil and to ensure awareness that this window may be quite brief. We use oil for heating, power, importing food and supplies for infrastructure, roads, air travel and maintenance. This dependence on oil makes us highly vulnerable. We need to radically decrease this dependency. I urge our Cabinet and all community leaders and all residents of the NWT to be aware of this and act now to change how we do business. All plans on economic stimulus and infrastructure spending must include a strong element of energy conservation, fossil fuel reduction or replace them with renewable energy.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I request that this Cabinet immediately adopt a policy that commits the NWT using only low carbon fuels as the U.S. Energy Committee Chair Henry Waxman wants to see in the U.S. Given that we are downstream from the damaging high carbon fuel development in the tar sands, there are clearly additional northern benefits to such a policy. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCREASED RCMP PRESENCE IN COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, in the 2009-10 financial statements, in the Minister's opening remarks, there is something that jumps out at me which I am glad to see that they are going to be spending some \$475,000 to add police officers and detachments in Fort McPherson, Fort Good Hope and Fort Liard as a way to increase patrols and stay in small communities without resident police RCMP members.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to thank the Minister of Justice for listening to the people in Tsiigehtchic in regards to finding ways of getting more police presence in their communities and also ensuring them that they do have a dedicated member who will be dedicated to work for that particular community. In light of that individual residing in Fort McPherson, Fort McPherson is only a half an hour away from Tsiigehtchic and I think this should be a way to solve that issue.

Mr. Speaker, policing is an important component of what happens in communities and gives the people some comfort knowing they were safe, secure and that the laws that we have will be enforced.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Tsiigehtchic over the years have done everything they can in regards to their powers by way of passing prohibition orders, enforcing laws by way of their bylaw officer. Yet, Mr. Speaker, that's not enough.

Mr. Speaker, having an officer stay in the community, familiarizing themselves with the residents, meet with the community council, meet with the community organizations and working with the community to familiarize himself with the community knowing he has a...also have a commitment with the community and dedicate himself to ensure he familiarize himself with the residents.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, would like to take this time to thank the Minister, but this is not the end of it. The community of Tsiigehtchic would like to see an individual living in the community, having a police presence 24/7. Again, this is a good start and, with that, I would like to thank the Minister of Justice and maybe he can pass on some knowledge to the Minister of Health on how she can get some nursing services in Tsiigehtchic. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to recognize in the visitor's gallery Mr. Rocky Simpson, a businessman from Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Tom Brown, a constituent of Yellowknife Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I'd like to welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope you are enjoying the proceedings. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 96-16(3): INCREASED RCMP PRESENCE IN COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice with regard to the statement I made today of putting police officers in Fort McPherson to serve the community of Tsiigehtchic. I would like to ask the Minister how soon can this initiative take place and when can the community of Tsiigehtchic have a dedicated officer to work with them and also give some assurance that we will try to move forward with this effort. More importantly, how soon is this initiative going to be rolled out?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this particular area has been a concern by the community, the community of Tsiigehtchic and also surrounding communities. That's one of the purposes we have proposed an additional PY for RCMP in the community of Fort McPherson; to deal with Tsiigehtchic. There was an incident in the community this past summer. So there has been a voice from the community, visiting community, and the outcome of that, we've stressed the importance of having an additional officer.

Mr. Speaker, part of that process will be going through that business planning process and once it's approved by this House, certainly we will be establishing a unit in the community to serve the community of Tsiigehtchic and surrounding

communities. So we're looking forward to that as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, in regards to the initiative, I know there was talk about looking at special constables and bringing them back in regards to this effort, but again the communities do have bylaw officers and whatnot. I would just like to know is that one of the other alternatives that the community can look at; to have someone trained as a bylaw officer or some sort of a special constable position to work along with the RCMP in those communities that don't have policing so we can increase that capacity in those communities along with the police officer to have someone working alongside them.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Community Constable Program has been in the works for a number of years in the past and now the federal government wants to reintroduce that to the system again, especially for our jurisdiction in the Northwest Territories. We have been targeted to have up to three community policing officers to be trained and stationed in the Northwest Territories. We will continue to work closely with RCMP "G" Division, because it's under their jurisdiction on the selection criteria. We will continue to voice the committee's concerns and, yes, this would be part of the community safety and we'll take all those into consideration. We need to identify somebody that is knowledgeable about the community that speaks the language. That will be one of the assets and basically we are replacing the special constable that we had before. Mahsi.

MR. KRUTKO: I'd like to also ask the Minister of Justice, we are looking at having permanent policing in communities. I know we've done that in Sachs, Wrigley and I know there are other communities. There are 10 communities I believe in the Northwest Territories that don't have policing. So would this also end up at the point where we possibly can have policing in all communities that don't have policing and basically have some sort of insurance that we will have some sort of service dedicated to those communities going forward? I would just like to ask the Minister, is that program also going to be considered for Tsiigehtchic where they potentially could have a permanent officer based in Tsiigehtchic?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, this particular program that the federal government announced is up to three officers stationed in the communities. Part of the program, the criteria, is they have to be stationed where the detachments are, but at the same time we have to work with the communities such as Tsiigehtchic or other communities. We are also proposing an officer in Fort McPherson to deal with Tsiigehtchic. So we

are talking about two different areas, but certainly those are the areas that we need to focus on with the community. Mahsi.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, is there going to be any additional equipment needed for the officer working in Tsiigehtchic such as radio communications or having a system? I know there was concern when we were at the public meeting in Tsiigehtchic from the RCMP, that they don't have a lot of equipment based there in regard to communication systems, radios. In the case of...We have cell phone service, great. I would just like to know are there going to be other investments made to ensure we equip these officers so they can do their job in those communities and have the backup systems in case they need it in those communities? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, certainly we will work with RCMP "G" division to make sure there is sufficient equipment in the community, to have officers in the community to do their daily routine work. We will continue to work with them to make sure it is in the works. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 97-16(3):
TERRITORIAL POWER SUBSIDY

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, in the budget address the other day, I learned about a \$3 million addition to the Territorial Power Subsidy Program for commercial customers. I am wondering what will this bring the total subsidy to this year, the territorial power subsidy, and what has been the trend in that figure over the last five or six years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Territorial Power Support Program is held under the Department of Finance/FMBS. So I will redirect that to Minister Miltenberger.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The trend of the Territorial Power Support Program has been steadily upward. The underutilized part of the Power Support Program has been the commercial subsidy. The cost of living in the communities in many cases is driven by the high

cost of power especially in stores, which has a direct impact on the price of food. With the \$3 million a year, it will be in the neighbourhood of \$13 million plus whatever forced growth pressures there's going to be on the residential Power Support Program. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Slightly confusing there that we have an underutilized fund that we're adding \$3 million to. I'm a little bit confused there. Will these dollars...Are they primarily aimed at commercial customers in diesel generation communities? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for the confusion. The commercial subsidy is underutilized mainly because the amount of money in it is very small and from what I understand, the application requirements are quite onerous so that a lot of commercial businesses don't bother to apply.

The intent is this is an interim arrangement as we look at the other broader, longer-term projects that we have to try to lower the cost of living to get people off of diesel. The commercial power support is geared to all those communities that are not on the hydro system that are currently on diesel. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for those comments and the clarification. I'm wondering, given that we know our greenhouse gas emissions are soaring and we know the price of fuel is down temporarily but will likely be soaring, will these dollars have conditions on them that require that they actually need to go through renewable and alternative energy developments; sort of, permanent solutions as opposed to a band-aid. All of these commercial ventures, I suspect, are quite capable of installing renewable energy systems that will help reduce their costs with some help from this government. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There are some short-term issues, mid-term and, of course, longer-term. The short-term issue is to try to get some assistance that's going to bring down the cost of commercial power in the small communities that we hope will translate into direct cost savings in stores, affect the cost of the food basket, for example, including milk. The longer-term, mid-term, we are working...The \$60 million that's in the budget, with the exception of the nine for the subsidy program, are geared to replacing fossil fuels, to work with communities to come up with the technology and the planning to be able to allow us, as a government, to unfold across the North the replacement of all the diesel-generated electrical installations we have, be they biomass, mini-hydro, wind or geothermal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: I'll take that as a no. I really think these dollars should have conditions on them that require renewable and alternative energy development. That type of energy is quite compatible with individual systems and would be perfect for this sort of situation. I stated in my statement that I applaud the energy initiatives and I'm expecting those to go forward. Would this Minister commit to ensuring that this power subsidy, this additional \$3 million on the existing \$10 million-plus, be dedicated to the production of renewable energy for our commercial customers out there? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the Member shouldn't take that previous answer as a no. In fact, we have indicated that we have to work on the detail and the application of this power subsidy. The Energy Coordinating Committee will be having that as one of their tasks as we move forward with the budget. There will be an opportunity to work with Members to look at how to best apply that particular program. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 98-16(3):
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON THE
ELECTRICITY RATES REVIEW

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation a question with regard to their strategy for community consultation. I'd like to know, will the Power Corporation be heading it up or is it the GNWT that would be leading the discussions during their community consultations? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, if I can get more clarity as to what the community consultation is on. Is it the energy paper that we put out through the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee on rates, regulation and supply or is it the Power Corporation review itself? If I could get some clarity on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: There is much said about doing the electricity rates review by our government and I was just wondering if the Power Corporation was heading that up or our GNWT and how extensive will it be. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I'll redirect that to the Minister lead of the Ministerial Energy

Coordinating Committee, the Honourable Bob McLeod.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We were planning to advise standing committees, if we haven't already, about the consultation process. We will have a team of experienced people who will be going to the communities and we will also go to those communities where we're invited. We expect that process to take a period of time; hopefully, with the report this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Residents of Nahendeh are really, really interested in speaking to this committee. I'd like to know who will be doing the work. Will the Ministers travel? Is it deputy minister level, senior staff? Who will be doing the consultations in our communities? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We will have three people with significant experience. One is a former chair of the Saskatchewan Public Utilities Board or equivalent. We have a former deputy minister of the government and a former director of the Government of the Northwest Territories. They will be assisted by the staff of the Department of ITI. Also, there will be Power Corporation staff who we expect will be participating in the hearings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Our communities are eagerly anticipating the discussion to have that review and how extensive it will be. For the record, I'd just like to say that our smallest communities must be part of the representatives of the discussions and I'd certainly like to invite the Minister to Nahendeh. As well, often these committees...They forget to advise the MLAs that they're coming to their riding and their communities. I'd just like to ask the Minister to ensure that we're certainly part of the loop and to advise if and when they're coming. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We will be scheduling hearings in some of the major centres and we will also be responding to those communities that invite us to their settlements for hearings. We will definitely make sure that all MLAs are apprised well in advance, because we would welcome their participation as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

QUESTION 99-16(3):
PROPOSED BOARD REFORM

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the lead Minister on Refocusing Government Strategic Initiatives Committee. Getting back to my statement from earlier, it just seems to me that the Government of the Northwest Territories doesn't seem to understand what engaging the public in a meaningful, consultative fashion means. If it wasn't bad enough that we didn't learn anything off of the supplementary health benefits and the proposed changes there, we're doing almost the exact same thing with board reform.

The government has offered no compelling indication of what the problems are. It seems to me, and it seems to the public, that the government is just going ahead with this simply for the sake of doing it. I'm concerned that the Ministers of Health, Education, Culture and Employment and Housing are not willing to stand up to this initiative and the damage that it is causing and will cause into the future. I'd like to ask the Minister how were the three departments involved in the latest round or campaign that he refers to as consultation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Michael Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Refocusing Committee, of which the Member sits on, includes the Ministers of Housing and Education, who have been sitting at the table, as well as Health. We looked at the work that's been done, the information that's been pulled together, the plan to gather more information, the move to go to the communities as well as consult with senior staff. They have been at the table throughout.

The other piece I'd like to point out, of course, is that we are seven weeks away from April. We are working to bring the rest of the information to the table. It's a milestone date, as I've said repeatedly. We will bring all that information collectively between Cabinet and Regular Members. We'll look at next steps. Are there adjustments required? If so, what? Are there changes required? If so, what? The Member has indicated that his colleagues are interested in board reform, but the question will be to determine, I suppose, on that date what that will possibly look like.

MR. RAMSAY: I'd like to thank the Minister for reminding me that I do sit on that Refocusing Committee and my recommendation to the Minister in the committee was not to take this outside of the building unless they had done the research, analysis, and collected the data that was necessary to answer the questions.

I'd like to ask the Minister how it is possible to conclude these face-to-face discussions with the boards and report back by April 1st. It seems like an impossible task, if you ask me.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This process was geared to go to 2010-2011 before we would consider implementation. There has been a lot of work done in-house. There has been work with senior staff going out to meet with the boards. I've met with health boards, education boards; I've been up to some of the regions. Senior members of staff have been as well meeting with different staff across the region. We're going to pull all the work together the first milestone date in April and we're going to look at where we stand, if there's changes that are required. If not, what do we do in terms of next steps? That's seven weeks away.

MR. RAMSAY: There's a big difference between listening to what people have to say and telling them what we're going to do. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could commit today -- and I'm speaking specifically about the city of Yellowknife and the school boards that are located within the city of Yellowknife -- along with his counterpart Mr. Lafferty, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, to sit down with the school boards here in Yellowknife to hear their concerns face to face?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I understand the senior staff are going to be meeting with the senior staff of the school boards after which we'll talk about a meeting of that nature. I've met with the school boards collectively here. I've met with some of them in the regions. I would be, of course, prepared to do that with the school boards here as well, and the health boards and the two housing boards.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since January 29th, when the consultation, if that's what they call it, went out -- the package went out to the school boards -- I don't believe the Minister or any political or Cabinet Ministers have met with the school boards here in Yellowknife. Now that that consultation material has gone out and there are so many, as I refer to them, holes in that information, you could drive a truck through some of the information and the questions are poorly worded, it's one sided. I think the Minister and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment have an obligation to meet with the school boards here in Yellowknife. I'd like to see them do that. Not send their senior staff, but send these two guys directly to meet with the school boards here in Yellowknife

and I'd like to see a commitment from them to do that.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'll just restate the commitment that I've just made. Currently the senior staff will be meeting them. Subsequent to that there will be a discussion, after I look at the scheduling, to have that meeting with the board chairs. I want to indicate as well, given the plethora of boards here, there's also two housing boards and the health board as well. We'll look at scheduling that particular slate of meetings.

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

QUESTION 100-16(3):
HOUSING ISSUES IN THE NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the budget address it says, "Canada has committed to invest a further \$50 million in the construction of new social housing over the next two years." My questions are for the Minister of housing. We do have some housing issues in the Northwest Territories. But whether you go to places like Fort Liard and see housing packages sitting on people's front lawns, which lead one to believe that we have trouble finding a contractor to build the houses, or whether you go to the small communities where we have no housing for teachers and nurses, or whether you go to communities where there's new homeownership units built but nobody subscribes to that, there's nobody moving into them. There are places where we say we have housing issues, but there's nobody on the waiting list for public housing.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Housing where this government's focus and attention is going to be on with any new housing dollar; or is the federal money going to be highly prescribed exactly what we can do with that money; or can we tailor the program to the needs of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. About three questions there. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I can say yes to all of the above. The Member has raised a number of issues that have certainly come to my attention since taking on the position of Housing Minister. We're trying to look at the issue of packages to the communities that have not been completed due to shortage of contractors, programs that are certainly not meeting some of the clients that should be accessing the housing packages. We're looking at the issue of deferred maintenance on public housing. All these issues we would like to bring

forward to have a discussion with committee. We will be drafting a letter to request time to sit in front of committee and look at some of the proposed changes we would like to suggest.

The new federal money, question number two, is an area that we're really working hard to get a handle on. We certainly have some challenges in front of us. Good challenges, I should add, because we have some resources that we were very nervous we would not have for the upcoming year.

The area that we plan to look at, and of course this is going to be floated by the committee, is to upgrade our public housing units, look at the energy side of it, look at extending the life of these units, replacing some of them, look at providing programs for homeowners across the Territories so they can upgrade their units also and look at energy and all the different issues that are challenging other people across the Territories. We'd also look at enhancing our Homeownership Program that we can provide houses to people who qualify for those units.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: My second question is, in the Minister's discussions with the federal government regarding this additional money, which is indeed very welcome, has it been his sense that it will be fairly narrowly described how we can use that money or do we have some considerable latitude in how we apply those resources to our specific issues and needs in the Northwest Territories? I raise the issue of the statement by the Minister of Health and Social Services on homelessness today. That's a problem. I want to know how much latitude we have. How much discretionary latitude do we have in the expenditure of these funds?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We still have yet to work out the details of how much money is actually going to be transferred to us. We expect it's \$25 million a year for two years. We haven't seen the actual detail. We only know it's going to be in the area of social housing. How we define that I think and hope will be up to us. That is yet to be seen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I do hope that the Minister communicates that to his federal counterparts when he meets with them, that we do have issues in the North with housing, but we would like made-in-the-north solutions. To the issue of homelessness, I would like to ask the Minister, the list of the money that was handed out so far in homelessness is fairly minimal. That is a big issue in our communities. Does the Minister have any plans, ideas, innovative ideas on how we can address homelessness with some of that money? Could that be directed in that way?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The issue of homelessness and public housing in general is still a challenge. There are two parts of the challenges we face in tackling the housing situation in the Northwest Territories. First of all, it's dealing with actual infrastructure of our units, whether it's new or upgrades. The second part was to find some money to operate the units. Right now we've had one portion of what we needed identified for a two-year period, but that doesn't allow us to invest in infrastructure. That's going to require ongoing O and M. That means we can't increase our housing stock. Our public housing stock, I should clarify. That only allows us to replace units, upgrade units, and it doesn't allow us to increase and invest into new public housing facilities. That's the challenge we still have.

We're not alone in this battle. We're not alone in this need. It's an issue that's right across Canada. We have agreement from all the jurisdictions in Canada to try and pressure the federal government to convince them they have to continue to invest through CMHC or by other means in social housing operation and maintenance. This is an issue here, but it is a significant issue in Nunavut, for example, and we need to have that discussion with the federal government so we can tackle issues like homelessness and more public housing stock.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot think of a community in the Northwest Territories at this moment that could not use capital money to address the issue of homelessness. I think we need to stop thinking on the grand scale of monstrous institutional buildings with huge O and M. I think we need to think on a smaller scale. Perhaps multi-client units built in the North without the huge O and M built with the needs of the homeless in mind. Would the Minister entertain such a kind of innovation outside of our normal programs thoughts?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: There is a stream of funding that does come to the NWT for homelessness. That responsibility is managed by the Minister of Health. There is only one designated community in the Northwest Territories that can access that money from the federal government. We are certainly interested to see any innovative ideas come forward. Our concern, of course, is how to be operating. Who operates it? How do we pay for it? That's an area that has to be defined. We have a committee that works with and addresses and looks at issues with homelessness. We'd be glad to review that.

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

QUESTION 101-16(3):
COORDINATE YOUTH BUDGET ACTIVITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today I spoke of the need to coordinate youth budgets and activities. I have questions for the Minister of Youth, Mr. Robert McLeod. Could the Minister advise me if there have been any discussions between the various departments on the various youth budgets that are up and coming for 2009-2010?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Member for his consistency in addressing youth issues. It is very welcome. At this point there hasn't been many discussions in my time here between the departments as far as coordinating the youth funding. The sport, recreation and youth department have a youth secretariat who would normally act as the first point of contact for youth issues within the GNWT.

MR. BEAULIEU: Could the Minister advise me if there have been...I'm trying to get a feel for whether or not the various departments...As I look through the main estimates I see a lot of pockets of money here and there. I'm trying to figure out how we're going to coordinate the expenditure of that. Could the Minister advise me if he plans to, as Minister of Youth, not as Minister of MACA, try to pull together some of the other Ministers and have some discussions on youth budgets.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I've had some preliminary discussions with some of the Ministers inquiring about the pockets of youth funding within each department. The Member makes a good point. It would be beneficial to those out there to know that there is one point of contact where they can access to find out exactly what amounts of money are in what departments. I will assure the Member that I will continue to speak to my Cabinet colleagues about it and we will see if we can come up with a coordinated approach and one place where everyone can find out about the different pockets of money.

MR. BEAULIEU: There's a budget item, I believe, to have two youth workers hired for the Northwest Territories to coordinate youth expenditures and a youth activities survey and whatnot; one for the North and one for the South. Can the Minister advise me how far along has the department gone in as far as hiring those youth workers?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I can confirm to the Member that one has been hired and they're just looking at trying to hire the second one.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister commit to pulling all the pockets of money targeted for youth in all the departments into one workable budget so that we can have that information given to us in the consolidated form so that we become aware of what's happening with all of the youth activities?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As much as the Minister of Youth, I would like to have a youth budget. I think it would be very difficult to try and access or pull all the pockets of money together because what education may use is earmarked for their particular department and as far as the other departments go. But I can assure the Member that I will meet with my Cabinet colleagues and try to identify all the pockets of money first of all and then see what steps we can take from there.

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

QUESTION 102-16(3):
OPPORTUNITIES FUND

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I raised an issue during my Member's statement, which is the process of the Opportunities Fund. A constituent contacted me the other day and basically emphasized their concern and fear that either other companies are eyeing this or potentially some companies could be coming back for this fund without Members being fully involved in a process going forward, one that's both transparent as well as involves Members.

My first question to the Minister of ITI is what process will he be developing to ensure that Members are involved in being part of the Opportunities Fund, whether it's knowledge or in the sense of discussion if this type of loan is warranted? And will he be considering these sections I highlighted earlier, which was under the FAA, section 67(1.1), and certainly section 5 on the guarantees and indemnities regulation.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have approached standing committees to work with us to make the Opportunities Fund more active and to design the funds so that it's more transparent and can maximize the benefits to businesses in the Northwest Territories. I should point out that the Opportunities Fund has grown and is funded by funds from the federal government

collected from immigrant investors. That money has to be paid back every five years; as such, seeing that as the Government of the Northwest Territories' funds, although it is accounted for in the public accounts.

MR. HAWKINS: The problem is it's the membership of the Assembly and the membership of the Northwest Territories that are on the hook if something goes wrong.

I want to make sure that we start with a fair, open and transparent process that involves Members up front. Mr. Speaker, I have highlighted the FAA and I have highlighted even sections under regulations that could involve Members that talk about maximum liability, potential risk and certainly risk assessment. It involves contacting the Members 14 days prior to a final recommendation being made. Mr. Speaker, the important thing here is, is the Minister going to make those considerations and will we stop running any money until full policies come forward? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the Standing Committee of EDI will work with us to develop a program that will be acceptable to everybody. Certainly, we have committed that any queries we won't act on them unless the Members on the opposite side are aware of them and we don't see us going forward on a one-off basis until such time as we have policies and procedures that we all agree upon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, for the record, is that the official policy of this department that no loans will be granted until we come up with policies and procedures developed through the committee system that are agreeable by the government? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I can't commit to that because we have a number of loan programs that, as I understand it, have been established through legislation of this Assembly, so we will continue to make big loans on that basis. But loans from the Opportunities Fund, we will make sure that we work with the standing committee to have a process that everybody is happy with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, respectfully, the Minister is evading a simple question which is, if the Opportunities Fund is completely on hold until policies and procedures are developed, working with the committee that oversees that department, is that lending process on hold until those policies and procedures are developed? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Just to be very clear, we are continuing to collect money from the federal government, but we will not lend or make any loans until such time as we have agreed upon policies and procedures that we develop with the standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 103-16(3):
ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL TRAVEL

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From my Member's statement today, I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Is there a policy for determining who is eligible for medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are. In practical terms, anybody who needs immediate attention and has to be transported, those decisions are made between the front-line health care provider and the doctors or any other health care providers, say, in Stanton or in Inuvik that they are in touch with. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, in the decision making about whether they should send someone on the schedule or the medevac, who makes that final decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, the Member did speak to me about this before session. My officials are looking at it. I will be able to provide more information on this specific situation as much as we can. But with respect to the decision about who decides, it would be the health care provider on the ground. It might be the nurse or the nurse in charge or whoever is in that facility and then they would be consulting with the receiving facility, whether it be Inuvik, Stanton or Aven, or outside of the Territory's location. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: I guess in a nutshell that is pretty poor judgment in regards to my Member's statement today. Who makes decisions about cancelling patients' travel due to overbooking or not enough passengers? Would the Minister look into this problem in the Beaufort-Delta and do something about this problem with the airline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, the Member raised a number of things I think that need to be looked into. I will undertake to do that and get back to the Member on what happened in these

individual cases as well as a broad policy. Thank you.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She answered the question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 104-16(3):
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP POLICY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I asked a few questions in regards to P3 and P3 policy. I would like to address my questions to the lead Minister for infrastructure. Given that the NWT is going to be receiving literally millions of dollars from the federal government for infrastructure projects over the next couple of years and considering that in the world of builders, P3s are sometimes considered bad public policy, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not GNWT has a P3 policy in place for the government and, by extension, for our communities to use and to protect themselves for P3 projects. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a P3 working group that was formed following the commitment by the Premier a while back to look at this with Finance in the lead including Public Works and Services, Transportation, MACA, and Justice. They worked at looking at all of the information that we have and they looked at other jurisdictions as well, what the federal government is doing. They have a final report that is being reviewed by the working group. They anticipate that will be ready by the end of March, which we will then be in a position to collectively look at. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I guess the Minister is getting really smart because he is anticipating my second question. I would like to know whether or not this is going to be a comprehensive policy. Is it going to cover the negotiations that would happen in entering into a P3 project? Is it going to cover the administration of this particular project and follow it right through the management of the whole project? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The intent is to make it as comprehensive as possible. One other jurisdiction's P3 project policy seems to us to be particularly applicable. That is the one in Alberta. It seems to be very

comprehensive in all regards. We will be coming forward with results of that survey of best practices, but, yes, we tend to have that as comprehensive as possible. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for the answer. Given that there are opinions out there that P3 projects are not the way to go, I would like to know from the Minister whether this working group is considering all aspects of P3 projects when they develop this policy. Are they considering that there are very strong opinions in some quarters that P3 projects are a bad thing and will they be looking at any policy that is developed through that lens? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we are looking at this policy as one that has some applicability that the federal government is getting involved in, in a significant way, and if we are going to have such a policy, what is the best way to set it up so that it is as comprehensive as possible and covers the range of needs and it will be one of the tools that will be available to us as we look at the infrastructure requirements and planning and capital plan of the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I must have been sleeping or my hearing is going as I get older, but I would like to ask the Minister if he did say earlier that the draft policy will come before standing committee for review and for our Regular Members to be able to comment on it. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Once the working group has concluded the report, we will have an opportunity to look at it. Yes, the intent would be to share it with committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 105-16(3):
MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Transportation in terms of connecting the rest of the people in the Sahtu and in the Beaufort-Delta in terms of the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Currently the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway extension remains at the conceptual planning stages. I will ask the Minister if this conceptual planning stage would go into more of an action planning stage in terms of seeing that this government could push forward the Mackenzie Valley Highway extension road to the potential highway from Wrigley.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, an all-weather road from the Mackenzie Valley to the Arctic Coast has been a long-term priority of our government and the people of the Northwest Territories. In the '50s, Diefenbaker's Road to Resources was something that everybody expected to bring this link through. Since then our government has included it in every strategy that they developed either in part in sections of this road or as a whole. However, Mr. Speaker, until we have the resources to pay for it, it still is a strategy. We can't include it as part of an action plan. So, Mr. Speaker, we continue to look to see how we can get the attention of the federal government to help us finance this road. The Premier has raised it on a number of occasions very recently in Ottawa and very recently with deputy ministers. I have also raised it and will continue to try to move this important priority project forward. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the people in the Sahtu want to get connected with the people of the Northwest Territories and the rest of Canada. They brought this issue up a number of times. I know the Premier has brought this type of discussions with his counterparts, the other Premiers, that have brought them many discussions with the territorial government. I asked this Minister if he would bring together a discussion paper as to how the people of the Northwest Territories can sit down with all of the smart minds in this country, in this Territory, to see how we can build a Mackenzie Valley Highway and get the people in Ottawa to understand that this is an important issue for the people of the Northwest Territories. Ottawa is bound to lose a lot of money by not having this road built in the North.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we brought this initiative forward in many different forms to many different options for the federal government. We tried to attract some attention through the P3 Infrastructure Fund. It has been raised as a potential issue that could be funded through devolution or resource revenue sharing. We have also raised it, as I have said, very recently as a potential economic stimulus project. We have also brought it forward as a partnership opportunity and it has been included in most of our strategies if not all, Mr. Speaker. The responsibility for a road in the Mackenzie Valley is still the responsibility of the federal government. We will continue to put pressure on them and have those discussions to see if they will bring that forward. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has been quite correct in terms of the different strategies and avenues to get the attention of the federal government. They are the big proponents in

terms of how to fund this Mackenzie Valley Highway here. Is there something else that has to get the attention of the federal government to take notice of the importance of building this Mackenzie Valley Highway? Can the Minister come forward with a discussion paper that would create some interest in Ottawa to build this highway? He tried the same old, same old. We still get the same old results. What is it that we have to do to get the attention of Ottawa to build this Mackenzie Valley Highway? That is what I am asking the Minister here.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, that is a question we are asking ourselves. What do we have to do to get the attention? Mr. Speaker, in the meantime we have to try to continue to build the basic case to convince the government. We are doing some very early work in terms of some more baseline studies. We are also doing some environmental scoping in different areas. We have hired some people to do an economic analysis and we should have that report by 2009. All of these things are going to help us with our discussions and our debates with the federal government to convince them that this is an attractive project that needs investment. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I think you really have to hit the federal government between the eyes to get their attention. They are standing to lose \$13.3 billion by not having this road built into the Mackenzie Valley. That is what they stand to lose. They are the biggest winners or they are going to be biggest losers, but people of the Northwest Territories need to do something more to get their attention. Again, would the Minister look at different avenues such as aboriginal groups, other companies out there that could build, finance the road? Ask them to look at it again to see if the federal government will pay attention to say this road we need to do it to connect the people in the Northwest Territories with the rest of Canada.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We have been and will continue to hear from the different companies, organizations and aboriginal governments out there that feel there is some merit to what they are bringing forward. We will continue to do the analysis on the road. We will continue to build our business case, Mr. Speaker. At the end of the day, we need to convince the federal government that this is an important investment area and that they should follow up on it. We continue to do that. Most of our discussions have been fairly positive but to no avail. The Premier has been working on this. I know personally that he has raised it with the Prime Minister and a number of other Ministers and will continue to put pressure on them. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 106-16(3):
FLOODING OF THE DEMPSTER HIGHWAY

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister of Transportation. Also he has the Housing Corporation portfolio. It is in regards to a constituent of mine who is presently in the hospital in Inuvik in regards to George Niditchi who has a house along the Dempster Highway on the Fort McPherson side of the Arctic Red River. That house was built with the Housing Corporation investment in the log housing initiative program a number of years ago. Since then we have been having problems every winter in regards to overflow and flooding around George's place, which is becoming pretty apparent that it is costing this government a lot of money to deal with this problem. I would like to ask the Minister exactly, does he have any plans to possibly move that facility or that log unit off that piece of land or is there some attempt made by the department to deal with the overflow problem?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the question I guess falls across two areas. I am responsible for Transportation and Housing. Mr. Speaker, it is not my practice to discuss individual situations. I would be pleased to sit down with the Member and continue our discussion on this situation that the person is in. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I will try to give a different slant to the question, but it is a problem that has been occurring every year. It is getting worse. I think a lot of it has to do with global warming, but it also has to do with the upgrades on the Dempster Highway over the last number of years. A lot of culverts were replaced and whatnot. I would like to ask the Minister, has his department looked or done a study to see exactly what can be done to mitigate this problem so that it is not a common occurrence every year or look at the possibility of culverts in the area where this was coming from?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I have had discussions with somebody that has been very interested and has had some history in this area regarding the flow of the water and some of the potential problems it has been causing since there has been some redirection of the overflow from a certain body of water. I have and will continue to have discussions with our staff and our officials to see if we can look at allowing the water to flow in its

natural direction that it had been historically. This may mean changing the culverts and providing some dykes that would prevent overflowing the banks. I'll continue to follow it up and provide information to the Member as we progress. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 107-16(3):
SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS
PROGRAM

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Health and Social Services, in her opening comments to her budget, responded to the motion that was put forward to this House last week, and many Members were quite enthused by the Minister's willingness to move the effective date of that supplementary change to April 1, 2010.

Mr. Speaker, when a person takes time to closely read the actual words in the statement, it says things like "follow policy's intent." I want to get an understanding from the Minister, what is the policy's intent and objectives that the Minister will be proceeding forward with and will Members be given the framework or synopsis of the government's positions on how they plan to proceed forward with that intent?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, the stated intent of the policy is that we want to have supplementary health benefit coverage that is fair and equitable to our residents. The announcement that I made yesterday, as well days before, is that we are going to delay the implementation of the plan until April 1, 2010, when we will have an opportunity to have full and open consultation on proposed changes, and that I am committing again to the House that we will have a very open, fair and full consultation on this policy and policy changes. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Well, I'm really glad to hear the phrase "fair and equitable". I just want to be clear. Can we get something on paper that demonstrates the guidelines that this consultation will be taken forward? For certainty, Mr. Speaker, when the petitions came forward and the positioning came forward, it talked about eliminating the thresholds. Is that the type of discussions that are up for discussion? Is there a possibility that that will be removed in this type of consultation? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I stated yesterday, and I state again, that I will be coming forward to the Standing

Committee on Social Programs on the outline, and timeline, and the framework for the consultation that is to take place. That has not been decided; it's being worked on. As I've already indicated, I'm open to people bringing forward their ideas and views about the proposed changes, and also to have exchange of information in a full and transparent manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member a supplementary question. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: It's only more about the technical sort of process, because I wouldn't want there being language here in your statement that we could turn around later on down the road and say, but see? This is what we really meant. I guess the fear in the constituency and, certainly with myself here, is the fact that there...I just want to make sure that there's fair consultation and the good ideas put forward are being considered with a clean sheet of paper as opposed to there's already a scripted consultation already designed and this is more optics. That's really the fear out there and we just want to make sure that every idea and suggestion on this policy update is being put on the table for discussion. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, that's what we are proposing to do.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, replies to the budget address, day five of seven. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 3-16(3):
REPORT ON THE USE OF LAPTOP
COMPUTERS AND BLACKBERRY DEVICES
IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures is pleased to provide its report on the use of laptop computers and Blackberry devices in the Legislative Assembly and commends it to the House.

Introduction

The Members of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures met several times to discuss the

use of laptop computers and Blackberry-type devices in the Assembly and committee meetings. The discussions were initiated after the Board of Management of the Legislative Assembly referred the question about the use of laptop computers and Blackberry-type devices to the standing committee for recommendations. The referring letter is attached as Appendix A.

Practices In Other Legislative Assemblies

The practices in Legislative Assemblies across Canada were reviewed and are presented in Table 1, attached as Appendix B. It is evident that the use of laptop computers and Blackberry-type devices varies widely. It is also evident that the use of laptop computers in Legislative Assemblies has greatly increased over the last several years.

The Purpose Of Laptops And Blackberries

Many Members consider their laptops and/or their Blackberries as tools that allow them to work in a more efficient and effective manner. They want to prepare their notes on computers. They want to refer to documents and calendars on their laptops and Blackberries. The use of laptops can support a reduction in the use of paper copies and an increasing use of e-documents in both the Assembly and standing committees.

For many Members, the use of Blackberries is considered to be similar to the use of cell phones. Members acknowledge that they cannot engage in conversations on their cell or Blackberry in the Assembly or committee meetings and the device has to be set on vibrating or silent mode. The use of any communication device cannot be disruptive or distracting to other Members.

The move toward the increased use of laptops in committees and/or the Assembly would require the installation of additional technical infrastructure in committee rooms and the Legislative Assembly Chamber, in order to support network and Internet connections.

The move towards increased use of e-documents in Committees and/or the Assembly would also require the development of new operational procedures, such as SharePoint websites, to support access and maintain confidentiality of some documents.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that Members be permitted to use laptops during Committee of the Whole proceedings for the winter 2009 session only, after which their use will be evaluated. Communication devices cannot be used by a Member who has the floor. A

Member who has the floor must have his laptop closed.

Recommendation 2

The standing committee recommends that the Board of Management and the Office of the Clerk examine the issues related to:

- a) the purchase of laptop computers for Members;
- b) planning and installation of additional infrastructure to support the connections; and
- c) planning for the changes to operational procedures and websites, et cetera, to support the increased use of e-documents in committees and the Assembly and return with a plan and schedule to develop and implement the changes.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends to other standing committees that:

- a) the use of Blackberries be permitted in a manner similar to cell phones; that is, disruption of Members' activities is not allowed;
- b) the use of laptops be permitted; and
- c) committee staff be permitted to use laptops.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures on the Use of Laptop Computers and Blackberry Devices in the Legislative Assembly.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 3-16(3) AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Committee Report 3-16(3) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Committee Report 3-16(3) will be moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills.

Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy; Committee Report 2-16(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on Matters Referred to the Committee; Tabled Document 11-16(3), NWT Main Estimates 2009-2010; Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Historical Resources Act; Bill 3, International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act; Bill 4, Public Library Act; Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act; Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I call Committee of the Whole to order. In consideration in Committee of the Whole we have several items: Tabled Document 7-16(3), Committee Report 2-16(3), Tabled Document 11-16(3), and Bills 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen?

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: The wish of the committee is to proceed with the consideration of the budget for the Department of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that, we will begin with Health and Social Services after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'll call Committee of the Whole to order. At this time I would like to ask the Minister if she'd like to bring in her witnesses. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Ms. Lee, can you introduce your witnesses?

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my left is Mr. Dana Heide, acting deputy minister of Health and Social Services, and to my right is Mr. Derek Elkin, director of finance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Welcome, witnesses. We are continuing on page 8-9, revenue summary. Comments? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to ask a question with regard to page 8-9, the revenue summary and the other recoveries. Some of us spoke about the concerns about reciprocal billing when we were doing our general comments. I would like to know specific to reciprocal billings for services for Nunavut and there are two identified there, I think, the physicians and also for hospital services.

We'd expressed concerns because there certainly was previously some difficulty in collecting all the receivables that were owed to this government for services provided to Nunavut residents. I'd like to ask the Minister what this current situation is, whether or not we are still behind in collecting those receivables and what the current situation is in terms of the 2008-2009 budget year. Are we collecting what we should be collecting? If we are in a deficit position, is it from previous years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are up to date on collecting money and receivables from Nunavut for the current year. As we move forward we have a clear agreement with Nunavut government as to how much and what we charge the Nunavut government for the services we provide. We've basically agreed to follow the same billing practices as the rest of the jurisdictions. There is a uniform standard on how hospital and doctor services are to be charged between jurisdictions.

The dispute had been that for a number of years after division there was not a written document between Nunavut and NWT about what we were going to charge. The problem wasn't so much on the doctor and hospital services, as something like lab tests where the Nunavut government thought that we would charge them a fee. For example, if you were to do a blood test for them, they thought we would charge them for each sample; whereas we thought we should charge them for each test, because you could have one sample from a person but you may have seven different tests. That sort of thing.

I can advise you that since I have learned about this issue in coming into the office, the officials in the department, as well as the management of Stanton, have worked diligently and we feel we have a good basis as we go forward.

We do have outstanding receivables from Nunavut from many previous years that we want to kind of move on from.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next on my list is Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the issue of hospital care for Inuit and Indians, what does that cover in regard to the \$20 million item on the budget?

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under our system in Canada, the federal government is responsible for insured services for Indian and Inuit. So hospital services, medical services, doctor services, DIAND is supposed to be responsible for that. The Government of Canada also provides for non-insured health benefits, which is a separate program. That comes under a separate category.

MR. KRUTKO: With regard to the federal government providing funding to this government to provide health care services to First Nations people, I note that a number of years ago the hospital in Inuvik was built because of the commitment made by previous health agreements where there were capital items built by the federal government, such as health centres, hospitals, and whatnot. As part of that I assume that hospital care, to me, also includes the cost to run and maintain health centres for First Nations people in First Nations communities. I think that because of the lack of these services being provided and the federal government paying it, I know there's a situation now in the Yukon where the Auditor General has slammed the Yukon government with regard to the monies they do get for education of First Nation students in the Yukon and where the money's been expended. I think the same thing could apply here in the Northwest Territories by way of health care funding and the services that aren't being provided and why not. For me it's an issue, especially in the smaller communities.

I'd like to ask the Minister again if any of that \$20 million for nurses and health care providers in small communities...

HON. SANDY LEE: The federal government does not fund us for specifically running our health care facilities or programs in the North. The federal government pays us through the transfer payments and CHT funding, then for insured services for Indian and Inuit through DIAND. Then they also cover non-insured health benefits for residents of the Territories who qualify for that and the GNWT is responsible for administering those.

I understand that the Member is passionate about the need to enhance services in small communities.

The government and the department draw funds from the general pot of money. I would say per capita or in any other standard we do spend lots of money providing services to small communities and we do that by providing block funding to different health authorities.

MR. KRUTKO: Just on that, if you are providing funds for community programs to the health authorities and they're not spending it on those programs in those particular communities, if you look at a budget breakdown by community they have items under that breakdown for policing services, municipal services, health care services, and other details of each of those particular line items. Yet the communities are asking me if that money is being spent in this community, where is it being spent and why are we not seeing a nurse or a doctor? Yet those dollars are being spent on my behalf.

From the statement that you just made, you're saying you give the money to the health boards and it's up to them to ensure that it goes to providing those services in those communities. So my question is what happens when they don't provide those services and they have received that money on behalf of this government?

HON. SANDY LEE: We provide upwards of about \$260 million to health authorities to provide health and social services to communities. For the Beaufort-Delta we provide about \$42 million-plus a year; Yellowknife authorities get \$43 million; and Stanton is obviously the largest body and it receives \$97 million now. We know that the financial and operating relationships we have with the authorities are that they're given block funding and they do move around positions depending on where the vacancies are or some of their operational priorities are. Because we do have, not detached from the government in any way, but semi-independent operations in these authorities with their governing board and they make priority decisions as to how they will spend those funds.

MR. KRUTKO: That didn't help me trying to get an answer out of the question I just asked. What do you do when they don't spend the money where it's supposed to be going instead of just running health centres in communities? If you have a budget that tells someone that line item is to run the hospital in Tsiigehtchic and make sure it's fully staffed and functional, and that you do have the resources to have people on the ground in those health centres providing front-line services, the same thing can apply to mental health workers, alcohol drug workers and whatnot. Every health authority gets money on behalf of this government to provide those services.

Again I'll ask the question, what do you do when the services are not being provided, knowing that the capital expenditure has been given and those dollars have not been earmarked for the line item it was approved for? Again this doesn't help me one bit, realizing there are services that have not been provided. You talked about the mental health services in my community of Fort McPherson. I talked to the Tl'oondih Health Society where they said there is no agreement. There aren't even any talks with the Inuvik Health Board to try to get people to fill that position. You mentioned something in the House yesterday that they're working on an agreement. Sorry, but they're not even talking to each other. So how can you have an agreement?

I'd like to know what you do when health authorities do not provide services in communities where they receive money on behalf of this government.

HON. SANDY LEE: With respect to Fort McPherson, the Mental Health and Addictions Program, and the services in Tsiigehtchic, I can advise the Member that I'd be happy to offer the Member as much as what the Minister of Justice offered in terms of providing policing services to Tsiigehtchic. I have offered that to the Member previously. We do want to look at the option of enhancing services, possibly in McPherson, so that we can enhance services in nursing coverage in Tsiigehtchic.

When I was in Inuvik two weeks ago for the Beaufort-Delta leadership meeting I had another meeting with the chair and CEO of the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority. Also this issue came up during the discussions with the Gwich'in Leadership Council. The Gwich'in Leadership Council has offered to work with us to enhance housing facilities in Tsiigehtchic so that we can better accommodate having a permanent nurse there. I've had discussions with the chair and CEO of Beaufort-Delta on that issue. They are wanting to work with us to see how we can enhance nursing coverage in Tsiigehtchic with the view of having a permanent presence there.

With respect to mental health and addictions programming in Fort McPherson, the Member is right, that when I last visited Tsiigehtchic the commitment was made for the Beaufort-Delta Health Authority CEO to meet with the community and Tl'oondih Healing Society. There was no agreement reached. Tl'oondih Health Society expressed that they don't want to discuss this issue further. So what I've done is we have an agreement with Fort McPherson leadership within the community that Beaufort-Delta Health Authority will provide \$75,000 to go to Tl'oondih Healing Society so that the band council, the community government gets that money for mental health and

addiction services for Fort McPherson, and they can have the flexibility to hire the person they want to have, whether it be with the Tl'oondih Healing Society or not.

The Member has been asking that we need to give that sort of power to the community. I'm telling the Member now, I'm advising him that I am accommodating what the Member is saying; that we should provide mental health and addiction services in Fort McPherson. I understand that the lady who used to work for the Tl'oondih Healing Society has left the position, but that it will be the community government that will have the option and choice to provide that services. Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority has agreed to that. This is a good news item. We are making progress in the way the Member has advocated in this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next on my list is Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to follow up on my colleague Ms. Bisaro's inquiry. The Minister finished off by mentioning some of the things that they left behind and charges they left behind. I'm wondering what the write-off was. Was it last year or this year for Nunavut specialist positions, and services, and hospital services? What amounts have we written off there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, we have not written that off yet. I will be coming to standing committee with more information on that. We expect that we probably will have to write off up to \$2.9 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next on my list is Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to question somewhat similar to what Mr. Bromley just raised. What efforts have been made to collect on that \$2.9 million and how long has that money been outstanding?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The outstanding amounts with Nunavut are going back up to six years at various stages. I think it should be made very clear that until lately, until last November or December, there was not a working written contract between Nunavut and the NWT. There was an understanding about providing services. I had directed the department to work with Stanton to have Stanton officials and department officials -- because the relationship and contracts are between

two governments and Stanton is a local authority -- meet and discuss how we resolve this. They did, and they came up with a working agreement that could carry us going forward. But we had to agree that given the lack of a written agreement that laid out clearly and exactly how Nunavut was to pay us, that it was necessary that we come to a mutual agreement that we would agree to write off some of the amounts that have been outstanding for a very long time and there was not a 100 percent clear agreement as to exactly how much they were going to be billed for.

MR. HAWKINS: When someone came to our professionals for services, can I get some sort of understanding of how they did this? Is it a matter of sending NWT professionals to Nunavut to provide services or are we talking about residents of Nunavut showing up at Stanton Hospital saying they have a cold or a sore finger or whatever the case may be and getting health care services? How did this build up to the point of \$2.9 million without it being slowed down or some billing process being developed?

HON. SANDY LEE: I think while we are discussing this it's really important to put it on record that we have a very good relationship with Nunavut. The Stanton Territorial Health Authority or any other authority, especially Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority who provide services to Nunavut, are very important to us in terms of our past history and relationship, as well as our physicians, GPs and specialists who like providing services to residents of Nunavut. We have a long history and close relationships. Our work is necessary and our complement of staff and services at Stanton are necessary by having the larger population that we serve in Nunavut.

I want to assure the Member that when doctors do go or specialists provide services to the Kitikmeot region especially, they have a contract with them. There are some specialists who work on separate contracts on their own or contracts with Stanton. Some of the outstanding amounts that we are talking about have been billed for many, many years. After division things just carried on, when you have two very close bodies that work together, thinking that they didn't think that those written contracts with i's dotted and t's crossed were necessary.

I can only speak for what has taken place since I've taken over, and it was brought to my attention that we need to have this finalized and confirmed. I understand the contract negotiations went on between 2003 to, say, 2007; it's just that those agreements were not finalized, signed and sealed. We have concluded that process last winter.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you for that. No, I just find it virtually difficult to understand that we could let it slip that much. I know if you owe \$100,000 through one of our lending programs, they chase you to the end of the earth. It seems that if you owe \$50,000 or even less, they seem to chase you even more. It's easy to write off the bigger numbers because I don't know if it is intimidation or through posturing, but in the end I always get this feeling, from being here almost six years, that the more you owe the less we seem to be interested in collecting.

I will get to the federal and HIV money in a minute, which is even larger, but I am just trying to understand. Did we not send sort of some collection agency over to them that were providing their citizens care? I am just trying to understand, because somebody would have had to of provided a health care card. If I was travelling on a holiday in Alberta and I had to go see the doctor for one reason or another, they would ask me for my coverage card or some sort and I would present them my NWT health care card. That makes the process of either I have to pay up front or it will be billed through the appropriate system, because I am not a resident of Alberta. So they would send the bill, I would assume, in one manner or another to the Northwest Territories. I am just trying to get a sense of have you exhausted every process or did they just come and say, well, we will negotiate only if you write off our existing debt? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I do agree with the Member's sentiment. I think those are legitimate questions as to how this has happened. I was surprised when I think the fact that Stanton Territorial Health Authority was under the microscope, so to speak, because of their large amount of deficit over the last year and a half, that they really had to zero in on their finances. Then we learned in the process that we weren't collecting or the Stanton Authority was not collecting every penny that they should be collecting. A lot more work has gone on in trying to figure out what is the monies that are owed to them by various parties and how do you collect them.

Another thing is these or health authorities are in the business of providing health services. The paperwork comes after that. The outstanding amounts go back to year 2001. The receivable from year 2001 is \$51,000. We expect to write off about \$23,000 out of that. The outstanding amount from 2001-02 is about \$14,000. We are expecting to write off \$9,000 out of that. The 2002-03 receivables were about \$11,000. We are collecting all of it. The 2003-04 outstanding receivable is \$34,600. We expect to collect all of that. The 2004-05 outstanding receivable is \$5,393. We expect to collect all of that. Year 2005-06, Stanton feels that the receivable should be \$533,000, but upon negotiation and talking to Nunavut, we expect we could only collect about \$45,000 out of that.

The real issues have been the years between 2005-06 to 2006-07. In 2006-07 the receivables that Stanton thought was \$1.7 million, but really \$1.6 million of that does not seem to be collectible. In 2007-08 we have a receivable of \$3.2 million and we feel we could collect about \$2.5 million of that.

I have to tell you when I learned of this as Minister of Health and Social Services and learned that there was not a written contract or a clear agreement as to exactly how much you are to charge Nunavut, the first question I said is how could you collect something you don't know you are owed? I could only say that at that time. I said okay, we need to be very clear about what services we provide and how much we are to charge them, and we have put that in place. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I am certainly glad -- I'm elated -- that we have a contract in place right now. This makes me think of the housing experience when houses were shipped to Alaska without a contract. When they got there, they didn't want them. They ended up here.

I am out of time but I will ask this one last question just quickly on the outstanding NIHB money owed to the Northwest Territories from the Government of Canada. It has been ball parked in the range of \$100 million. I am sure it is a little bit more now. I would like an update as to how much has been received and what work is being done to negotiate a settlement. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: This was discussed yesterday as well. Just to be clear again, GNWT provides insured health services to all residents whether they are aboriginal, non-aboriginal or eligible for reimbursement from DIAND or not. I think the Member is talking about the DIAND funding, not NIHB funding because NIHB is the program that we administer on behalf of the federal government. It is the NIHB that pays for that, but the cap we have is with respect to the money that DIAND provides for insured services to Indians and Inuit in the Northwest Territories and all over Canada. They have imposed a 2 percent cap on that.

Lately, because all of the fees have gone up, we feel that the money we are spending is about \$40 million. We are paying about \$25 million, so there is a \$15 million gap each year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Next on my list is Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be rather brief under transfer payments, Territorial Health Access Fund, medical, maybe you can tell us what that is for, how long that funding has been in place and I'm just wondering if that is going to be continuing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is part of the health renewal money under Prime Minister Martin. That was announced back in 2003, where three northern Premiers walked out to get this deal. The implementation took another year or two, so we are on our last year of five-year funding whereby the federal government has provided \$150 million for all three territories. There are different components to it, but we have been able to use that money to train and hire nurse practitioners. There is money going to medical travel. There is money spent on midwifery programming. There are all kinds of good things that have been done as a result of this funding. It works out to about \$10 million yearly for the GNWT. The headquarters of this administration is in Whitehorse. This is coming due. It is going to expire next fiscal year. Sorry; year 2009-10.

As I discussed yesterday, northern Health Ministers including myself met with Minister Aglukkaq on January 8th. They had about an hour and a half meeting. It was a very good meeting in that probably very rarely we are meeting with federal counterparts and you don't have to explain who you are and what this program is. In fact, she was more senior of all three of us, so she is well aware of the difference that this funding has made. We have agreed to have our staff work together to do necessary evaluations so that we can help her move this program forward.

Now, I have to tell you, we don't have any commitments from the federal government that they are going to renew this, but they are very well aware that we need to have a really good indication that this will be renewed by the beginning of the next business cycle for the federal government, which is this spring. So we have asked Minister Aglukkaq to please let us know where they are going with this funding.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I just wanted to be assured that there were communications and negotiations underway to hopefully confirm the continuation of this funding; and if you have to walk out of a meeting or anything or throw a tantrum, it worked last time, then go for it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Questions will move to the next person on my list. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chair, just following up on the Minister's response to my question, I have been here for going on 14 years and I think I heard every Minister since then give the same comment that you're just giving saying: Oh, it's going to be taken care of and the

issue is going to be solved, even. Talk to your colleagues who were former Ministers of Health and you can go through the archives and you will probably get a stack of paper three feet high on this issue.

I think that for you to state it here on record that this problem is going to be taken care of by snapping their fingers, I am sorry. That is wishful thinking. For me, unless I actually see a warm body sitting in the seat of the mental health office in Fort McPherson providing day-to-day services and having someone drive up from Inuvik or flying from Inuvik once a month and then fly back to Inuvik the same evening or drive back to Inuvik the same evening, that is not health care services.

The same thing applies in regard to other taxi services that are being provided to communities in the Beaufort-Delta. I heard my colleague from Nunakput mention this morning that elderly patients basically are having to be told, well, you either come into the health centre and get your name on the list and we will put you down when the doctor comes in once a month. Basically if you are on the list you get in. If you are not on the list, sorry, you have to wait until next month. To me, that is not health care services.

I think we have to find a system that works for small communities, in isolated communities and First Nation communities. The quality of health care for First Nations people in the Northwest Territories is below par when it comes to the statistics that show that aboriginal health is deteriorating compared to the rest of the non-aboriginal population in Northwest Territories. To me, that is a grim statistic that we shouldn't be proud of. It shows it right across Canada.

I think if you start looking at the increase of cancer cases in our communities, diabetes and other ailments, that could be prevented by good health care, preventative health care measures in communities, having a nurse in a community, having a mental health worker in a community, having home care services, having people there that come home with cancer saying, sorry, there is nothing we can do; go home. But having care for them, aftercare, so that when they get home there are people there to take care of these people.

I get calls from people quite regularly. I got a call just a couple days ago from a young lady that her mom just passed away with cancer a couple of months ago. Now her dad has cancer and is dying. Basically she is taking care of him and she has three kids. She is trying to get help from income support to support them in food, and keep the lights on, and keep the home, but they won't help her. She is calling me and I'm talking to the chief. We are trying to find ways around assisting people that

have these ailments in our communities and find a system that really works. That has got dysfunctional to a point where they have to start calling the chief and MLA to solve these problems. There is no need for that.

I think, as a government, we cannot allow bureaucracies, either health boards or whatnot, to justify their existence by going into deficits every year and not providing services to communities. For myself, I am frustrated with this issue, because we shouldn't have to talk about it here in the Legislative Assembly every time there is an issue.

As the Minister of Health, I hoped that you would take this issue seriously, like the Minister of Justice did with policing. I think that, as a health care provider, these services are services that aboriginal people are fighting for and that is why they want self-government, because this government couldn't do any worse than what we are doing here today.

I would like to ask the Minister exactly when can you guarantee me that there will be a hot, warm, cozy body in Fort McPherson providing mental health care services so people can walk into an office, know that there will be somebody there that will basically provide them that service, and also that there will be the expenditure that you mentioned? You mentioned \$75,000. I was just looking through my notes here. McPherson could provide mental health services with \$185,000, so I would like to know how you came up with a number of \$75,000. But looking at the government information I got from you, it says that you spent \$185,000 on mental health services in Fort McPherson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Member. In my travels as a Member as well as a Minister, we do need to enhance services in communities. I am not sure if I could guarantee him, though, we are going to have a warm, cozy, -- I can't remember -- live body in Fort McPherson to do mental health and addiction. But I just wanted to tell the Member again that I have an agreement from the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority that they will give a contribution to the Fort McPherson local government. I don't know exactly the name of the band council or the leadership in Fort McPherson. That money that used to go to Tl'oondih Healing Society so that they could hire a warm, cozy, live body to provide mental health and addiction services for their people. I have also been hearing from communities who would like to do their own programming to help with some of the grieving and some of the other issues that have arisen out of Fort McPherson.

The reason why I said \$75,000 is because that is the money that used to go to Tl'ooondih Healing Society. Now there is more money allocated to Fort McPherson and some of those positions and money are being used and provided for in Fort McPherson.

With respect to nursing coverage in Tsiigehtchic, I am willing to provide him with the same sort of commitment that was made by the Minister of Justice, because we do want to work in the same way. I understand that the Member is sceptical because it has taken me a long time to get that commitment from Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority for that mental health money. I am working on proposals to enhance nursing coverage in Tsiigehtchic and whether it be having somebody come over from Fort McPherson or having a permanent presence in Tsiigehtchic, I am working on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, until I actually see it in writing, see it for myself, that there actually will be a person in that position, then I will believe it. As a Minister -- and Ministers that have made this same commitment time after time -- it is not appropriate to basically say, well, we will give a bunch of money to someone, because that was the issue that we are not able to fill that position in Fort McPherson, because Inuvik demanded that these people have to have a degree in psychology and be a psychiatrist before he can fill that position. There is no need to have a psychiatrist in that community in regard to mental health.

I think the criteria for the program is so restrictive that is why you have so many vacancies in a lot of First Nations communities and communities throughout the Northwest Territories, because you cannot find the qualified individual with those types of credentials. I think that is the problem that you faced in regard to this issue. In regard to the Minister knowingly removing all of these positions, to the tune of \$2 million or something in which we twisted your arm and got you to reinstate it, like in most issues we have to do around here. Again, to reinstate those mental health positions, I think you should do justice to those people and the individuals who have taken training, have the credentials to provide the services. They might not have a bachelor's degree, but they have the certification to provide that type of service.

I would like to ask the Minister in regard to the positions in Tsiigehtchic, McPherson or the communities I represent, or other communities for that matter, will they seriously look at the decertification of those programs so that we can actually find people to fill those vacancies or vacant positions throughout the Northwest Territories and also ensure that the communities have control of those dollars, that the dollars go directly to

community from the Department of Health and Social Services and an agreement be signed between headquarters and hamlet communities and bypass the divisional board? As far as I am concerned, that is where the hiccup is. I would like to ask the Minister if she would make that commitment.

HON. SANDY LEE: I am making the commitment. I will put that in writing to the Member that the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority will transfer that money to the community government of Fort McPherson to do their own wellness and community mental health and wellness work.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Member to a certain extent; that there is not enough flexibility in the way we deliver mental health and addiction services. There is a need for people with specific qualifications including master's program, where necessary. The way that the programs are delivered now, there's not enough flexibility. Flexibility to hire somebody without a master's program would be helpful to the community. This is why I like the idea when Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority as well as the acting deputy minister suggested to me that we could work to transfer that money to the community governments so that they could hire their own person and they don't have to require somebody to have a master's education.

Now, we do have those people in place if the community needs that. But I have heard also from the community of Fort McPherson that they would like to be able to have some options to provide community healing and wellness programming. We are saying we will do that. We are doing exactly what the Member is saying, that the communities should have more say on how this program is being delivered.

On a larger picture I want to advise the Member in the House that the Minister's action plan that I was talking about will address -- and we will have an opportunity to talk about this -- about how we could revisit mental health and addictions programming and how we could address enhancing some of the services in communities that are not as available under the ISDM model, because it's a very clearly designed program and we want to do ISDM-plus under that Minister's action plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Next on my list is Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, in the last question the Minister answered for me, it was my view that it wasn't answered fully, which was the strategy to

recoup some of that \$100 million outstanding to the territorial government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: On that issue, the former Minister of Health and Social Services wrote to Minister Strahl in 2007. I wrote to Minister Strahl in 2008. We had agreed that we will have our respective representatives get together. The deputy minister of Health and Social Services met with our DIAND counterpart in August of last year, but I have to say that we have not been able to convince the federal government to remove that 2 percent cap on the reimbursement. It should be noted here that this 2 percent cap policy that the federal government has applies to every government in Canada, and the NWT is only a very small part of this entire funding that the federal government provides for insured services for Indian and Inuit. They seem to be quite reluctant to lift that 2 percent cap. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HAWKINS: Yes, it may be a small issue for the federal government, but it's a significant issue, in my view, to our government. Would the Minister consider the option of working with the Department of Justice to take the federal government to court on this issue for settlement? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I believe the government is always willing to look at all options and we will look into all options. I think it should be noted that it is not quite correct to say that this is money owed to us from the federal government. I think that it should be very clearly understood that the federal government provides transfer payments for every resident in the Territories, whether they're aboriginal, non aboriginal or whatever. Then they also provide CHT funding. The extra money that we get from DIAND on insured services for Indian and Inuit are extra on top of that, and what they're saying is they are going to put a 2 percent cap on that and they are saying that they are paying some of that from the transfer payment. It's not like we have accounts receivable that says the federal government owes \$150 million. As far as the federal government is concerned, this is not a dispute. They are saying they are going to pay us a 2 percent cap every year. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Well, I would take a different approach from this. If treaty obligations cause us to only be able to afford, through the transfer payment, 65 percent of the actual, which means 35 percent of the actual is still outstanding, I would see this as a negotiable position to start working from, which is they are avoiding their obligations based on those principles. Therefore, we're doing our citizens at large a disservice. Could we not define that as a workable position to start to recognize?

Perhaps if this Legislature took the opinion that we would proceed legally, that might get the attention of the federal government on the outstanding dollar.

It's been my understanding that the federal government always pretends they are not responsible, let's it accumulate, then pay a little off, bring the balance down. I'm concerned that no one is bringing this, really, to the attention of the federal government in the context of other than a letter. I suggest that it's probably time that we start taking a significant position. On a side perspective, that is, what do we have to lose in that regard if we put our legal system to work, that we have in our Department of Justice, on this file and say, look, we want this money and we feel it's due? Who are we really offending? At the end of the day, to them it's just business. To us, it's business, but the problem is if we're not funded properly, it's going to start affecting our citizens. My view is that it will have a ripple effect on the remainder of our health care coverage we provide through this whole department and our system. I would, once again, suggest that this Minister could seriously take a look at a legal position and challenging the federal government, serving them with notice that this is the way we wish to proceed rather than just a letter, can we talk. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Before we move to the Minister, I'd like to recognize Crystal Lennie from Inuvik in the gallery. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: I should have added that beyond communicating in writing, Premier Roland as well as previous Premiers, the Minister of Finance and myself, have brought this issue forward to every Minister and Prime Minister we've had a chance to talk to. I've had a meeting on this with former Minister of Health Tony Clement. We're using all avenues to express our concerns in this area. Obviously, a legal option is always there, but for me, and I think for most people, a legal option is always a last resort. I think you want to do everything you can to try to resolve the issue by talking and negotiating and putting on pressure, which we are doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HAWKINS: And what gains have we made from talking about this issue for the last three years? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: In the time I've been here we have had the DIAND officials agree to have our officials meet. That's progress.

MR. HAWKINS: I would like the official record to note I laughed very hard on that reply from the Minister. Is that considered our best position and an acceptable position from the Minister of Health? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, we have lots of files and issues that we need to work with on, not only myself as Minister of Health with my federal counterpart, but whether it be the Minister of Health or HRDC or the Minister of Social Services or Minister of DIAND. There are lots of things that we need to work together on. We need the federal government to help us and we need to work together on many numbers of files. The option is there tomorrow to file a paper if we wanted to, but you have to consider the whole picture when we are trying to pursue a federal government, who has a lot more leverage than us, to convince them to see our way that we need to lift this cap. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Hence the principle of why justice is blind; it doesn't look on the size of your army, it looks on the merits of your case. I would like to hear that we're going to take more of a position of backbone and I would assert that the Minister, when she was a Regular Member, she took more of an aggressive position. I can't imagine, if she was sitting on this side of the House, that she'd sit and feel comfortable that this government had a letter that said it's okay, we will talk. I mean, I can't imagine that being a position of comfort or a position of acceptance. I would ask where is that screaming, kicking Minister who yelled at the old Health Minister, that turned into the Hulk, and is laughing now? But I remember that Minister Lee screaming at Roland to become the Hulk to deal with some of these issues. Well, where is that tenacity from the Health Minister when she was a regular woman, or Regular Member?

---Laughter

Sorry. Someone yelled "wonder woman," so I got sidetracked there. It sounds like the Minister has taken the soft, cuddly approach: let's talk. I want a kicking and screaming Minister who demands payment. Would the Minister reconsider her position? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I need to see some of those videos, because apparently I was screaming a lot for eight years.

Mr. Chairman, in all seriousness, we understand that this issue is very important. It has been an issue that the Premier and myself have raised with every Minister that has come up here, including the Prime Minister. Every time there is a visiting Minister and we talk about what issues to be brought up, this is on the top of that list, as well as some of the other files that we work on with our federal counterparts. We will continue to push that.

I've had a chance to meet with the Minister of Health twice in the last two months and I expect that we will do that again. She is very aware of this

issue, but it's just that with all that's going on in Ottawa, we have not been able to do as much as we would like. I expect we could do more now that things are more stabilized. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, just to follow up on questions I had yesterday in regard to the grants-in-kind. It's in regard to the Northern Lights Special Care Home purchase. I'd just like some clarification. I notice there are a couple of expenditures under the supp that we're dealing with later on, but I'd like to know in regard to this facility, I believe it's a seniors facility in Fort Smith. I've toured through the facility and I was under the assumption that this facility was built with federal dollars and is operated by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation by way of an operational grant that they get. I'd just like to get some clarification on the status of this facility. When was it built, what programs were expenditures on it, and how is this transfer or the purchase from the Town of Fort Smith to the government? Just to get some clarification on this facility in regard to the history of how it came to be, where the money came to build it and exactly what the expenditures are to date. Also, there are dollars that are also in the supplementary appropriation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, the facility was built in 1992. The town was the proponent; they got a mortgage from CMHC. Health and Social Services paid contract dollars for the program. The staff were initially all town staff and then a number of years ago, the program itself transferred to Health and Social Services. Then, once the program went, there were renovations required and tied into the hospital master development plan. In order to do that they worked out an arrangement to transfer, take over the land and the mortgage. The government was paying all the costs. The GNWT was paying the costs on an ongoing basis to the town. The circumstances...I'll let the Minister pick up the story from there, but that's a basic summary of when the facility was built 17 years ago now, I believe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I will try to answer the next question from the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): No further comments from the Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I'd like to thank the Minister of Finance for that. Also, there are other facilities similar to this throughout the Northwest Territories. Is the government going to be taking over all those facilities under this type of arrangement, and, if so, which other facilities are out there that have a similar type of arrangement under the agreement through CMHC and also the operational fund? At one time, I know that through the seniors facilities in most of our communities was a joint effort between the Housing Corporation, through CMHC, and the Department of Health. Today we're still trying to get those types of facilities in our communities. But again, because there is no such program, now most facilities are built either as elder homes but not care homes.

I'd like to state that in regard to the situation with the Joe Greenland Centre in Aklavik, which is a level 3/4 facility, that because of the condition of the home, that basically we have to replace it. But under what program are you going to be able to replace that facility? I'd just like to know are there any other facilities in this type of arrangement that basically the government has now taken over.

Also, in regard to the history of the program, which is now grandfathered, which doesn't exist anymore, what is this government going to do going forward to replace those other facilities that fall under the same type of program?

HON. SANDY LEE: There is not a plan for the Department of Health and Social Services or the government to own or buy up facilities being built. This Northern Lights facility situation is unique and is an isolated incident in that the Department of Health and Social Services has been leasing that facility from the town. We give that lease money to Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority who gave it to the town, and then the town basically pays a mortgage every month. There's also a CMHC subsidy that has been funding part of that. What we are doing is we are taking over the ownership and paying for the mortgage that was being paid by the lease payments anyway. That ownership question came up because we're doing major renovations on that and for contract reasons, and the land issue reasons, it was better to have that cleaned up.

With respect to the Joe Greenland Centre, I understand that that building, half of it is owned by the Housing Corp and the other half by Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority. It is an aging structure.

The Department of Health does not have a comprehensive list of what our capital needs are in terms of long-term care facilities. The Member for Sahtu, for example, is asking about the need to have some facilities in the Sahtu. Part of our action

plans includes getting a list of what the capital needs are in our communities, especially for long-term care facilities. I will be coming forward to standing committee on that as we work toward the next phase of the business planning cycle as well as the capital planning process. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I asked also, are there other types of facilities throughout the Northwest Territories that are under a similar arrangement by way of government considering looking at taking over? I don't know about the Avens Centre or other centres similar to that, but that fell under this CMHC program. I know for a fact that most of our seniors homes in our communities were built under that program and a lot of them are aging, like the Minister says, but there is no program there to really have the capital come forward and replace these facilities.

I know another area that they had similar problems was in Fort Good Hope. That facility is aged; they had a flood a number of years ago; there were some structural problems with that. We touched on the Joe Greenland Centre. Then we had a letter from the Minister in November, and basically from the last statement from her letter it says, "In accordance with the integrated service delivery model, residents of long-term care facilities should require Level 3 or 4 care. In order to provide this level of service, the facility will need to be replaced." So in regard to your letter, when are you considering replacing the Joe Greenland Centre, and exactly where are those capital dollars going to come from?

HON. SANDY LEE: To answer the Member's first question, we are not aware of another situation like the one in Fort Smith. I think even the Territorial Dementia Centre is again unique on its own. The property that the Dementia Centre is being built on used to be owned by the GNWT, but we gave that land to YACCS for a dollar so they own the land and we are building the building. I think that that is a different situation.

I agree with the Member that Joe Greenland Centre needs to be replaced and we need to come up with a plan to have a seniors assisted living facility in communities like Aklavik. That would have to come through the regular business planning processes and capital planning process. I have instructed the staff of the department to look at the capital needs of all different regions so that we can start taking an inventory. We have a similar situation happening in Behchoko. There is an aging structure there, with lots of construction problems, that has to be replaced. We heard about Sahtu. We need to start having an inventory and start building this into the capital plan process and I will be doing that. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: In regard to the Northern Lights Care Facility, was that part of the capital planning process to purchase this outright and not to pay the O and M costs and administration costs? When was that decision made?

HON. SANDY LEE: This was not part of the capital plan process. The issue arose as we went to tender to do the renovation and the issue of complexities involved in making major renovations and investments into property where we do not own the land or the property, so this is just a measure to fix that. I can assure the Member that we are not spending extra money on that; we are just taking the ownership of it and paying mortgages with money we were paying the town anyway. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. We are on page 8-9, revenue summary, information item. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things we seem to cost out is hospital services attributed to First Nations and treaties, and I am just wondering what the actual costs are the territorial government picks up that are specifically billed to Metis care that the policy of this government is to treat equal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't bill anybody for Metis care. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Is there any assessment as to what that would cost? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: No, Mr. Chairman, that assessment has not been done, as we would have no body to claim that expense to.

MR. HAWKINS: I am just wondering, is there any opportunity going forward to look at that. I am just wondering, because if one of the principles of trying to find out where the gaps in the supplementary health programs are to help identify as to where the gaps are for coverage, costs, et cetera, is it on the list of things to do in the next little while. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I think it is important for us to make a clear distinction between the medical and hospital services for Indian and Inuit that we bill to DIAND. That is an insured service. That is a medical service that every Canadian gets and every NWT resident gets. It is part of universal health care and we provide that to all our residents. It happens to be that for our residents who qualify, who are either Indian or Inuit category, we are allowed to ask for reimbursement from DIAND. But we would not be doing that for anybody else.

In terms of Metis health benefits under supplementary health, that is a completely different program. We spend about \$7.7 million dollars on supplementary health, and supplementary health is different from NIHB, and that is different from Metis health benefits. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Just changing gears for a minute, under the title of "general" and then you have the breakout of the professional fees, licence fees, are these fees revenue generated by doctors' licence fees or physicians' licence fees, and if they are, do we pay for them in the end through their contract? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if I could have Mr. Heide answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Heide.

MR. HEIDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first part of your question, yes, this is revenue from a variety of licences, whether that be a psychologist or a physician or any professional fee or any professional services that we provide licensing fee for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Heide. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Alright, and for the second part, please, is it money we indirectly pay through their contract when we cover their licensing fee through the special contracts that they have?

MR. HEIDE: For professionals outside the medical profession, we don't have contracts per se with them, so there is no recovery there whatsoever within the contract. This is a straight revenue to us.

MR. HAWKINS: If in the contract, for example with physicians, do we pay for their licensing and professional fees? Thank you.

MR. HEIDE: Professional licensing fees we pay for, yes.

MR. HAWKINS: So in other words, we are paying ourselves. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, these fees are not only just the professional and licensing fees but vital statistics fees. Oh, I guess that is a different category. So I guess you could argue for some of the professionals we pay them under contract, but there are lots of professionals who practice in the North who are not part of our salary and we will be collecting money from them, whether they are

nurses or any other professionals that work here. In fact, I think there is up to four or five hundred nurses registered to practice in the Northwest Territories and some of them may practice for a week and some of them may practice for a year, but they would have to pay fees to practice here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Is the Minister able to provide a further breakdown of what professional licence fees would be, and under certain categories, explain the differences, such as doctor, nurse, et cetera? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, I would be pleased to do that. We don't have that information right now, but we will provide a breakdown of each profession and how much we collect from them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Thank you, committee. We are on page 8-9, revenue summary, information item. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just feel like I wanted to ask some questions on...I don't recall anyone highlighting this area, so first my apologies if it is a repeat. If it is, just let me know and I will look for it myself. I don't remember any issue or hearing any Member raise issues with the Patient Wait Times Guarantee Trust. If they have, I will accept that as an answer. If they haven't, can I get an assessment as to what that will deliver sort of on the ground patient delivery sort of medical delivery through either hospital or whatever mechanism?

HON. SANDY LEE: This was brought up yesterday but I am pleased to tell the Member again that this is three-year funding from the federal government and the funding for each year is approved on a one-time basis and each year the funding sunsets and then renews again. This is the third year of programming that started in 2007-08. We are spending a total of \$4.6 million under this project: \$940,000 first year, \$1.793 last year and this year we expect to spend \$1.893, almost \$1.9 million. We will be spending \$1.068 million for CHNs, our community health nurses in our communities. We will be spending \$600,000 for nurse practitioners and \$225,000 this year on DI/PACS and IEHR which is the electronic equipment programming that I mentioned in my opening statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. You also did provide that in response to questions yesterday. Is there anything further? Thank you, committee. We are on page 8-9, revenue summary, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. We are on page 8-10, active position summary, information item. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chair, I would like to ask the Minister, do you give a breakdown in regards to any affirmative action statistics from the status of these employees and what their status is by way of living up to our Affirmative Action Policy and, more importantly, that we do have people that are being trained as nurses, social workers and whatnot? I would like to know if you have statistics on exactly what percentage of these individuals are P1s, P2s, P3s. I would like to ask the Minister if she can provide that information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: I have information for the headquarters. We have 130 employees in the headquarters. Twenty-three, which is 17.7 percent, are indigenous aboriginal; 16.2 percent, which is 21 out of 130, are indigenous non-aboriginal, and 66 percent, which is 86 out of 130, are non-aboriginal. I do not have information on the breakdown for the staffing at the authorities' level. I would have to make a commitment to get back to the Member on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KRUTKO: Does the Minister also have a breakdown by way of gender balance in regards to the number of women in management in regards to the management positions in that layout in regards to the breakdown by gender and also by management positions?

HON. SANDY LEE: We do. We have 10 out of 130 who are senior management. We have 10 percent who are indigenous aboriginal and 40 percent female. Out of the 40 percent female, one of them is in a non-traditional occupation. We have one who is a self-declared disabled person. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: I just have a question because I have talked to employees who have worked in the government for years. Basically, they don't seem to be seeing any enhancement by way of movement up the ladder. Do you have any professional development programs in place to allow individuals who have worked in this department for years? Your numbers seem a little low in regards to 17 percent in regards to having seven people out of 130. I think, if anything, we can be doing a better job than that. Do you offer such programs? Are you open to professional development services to allow people to go off to university or college to get their different degrees and looking into management studies so they can advance or approach it? Is that something that you do and exactly what programs have been provided through Health and Social

Services to enhance employees to move up the ladder?

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, I could tell the Member that, as Minister of the department, I had made it very clear from day one to the senior officials that I believe in adhering to affirmative action policies. You will see that in our departmental reorganization and appointments that I have been part of that we have given due consideration to the principles of the Affirmative Action Policy.

Also, at the rank and file level, obviously, Affirmative Action Policy is a guiding principle, and in all of our training programs I don't think there is any question that we are wanting and we do what we can and we do everything we can to encourage and support our people, NWT residents too, and especially people from small communities to take on those challenges, get trained and also encourage them to go back to the communities they come from. I could tell you that we have nothing as successful, because I have run into lots of people at Stanton Territorial Hospital, for example, who are from elsewhere in the Territories who choose to live and work in Yellowknife rather than going back to some of the communities they come from.

I could tell you, Mr. Chairman, we have information on breakdowns for the authorities. For Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority, we have 220 employees there and about 25 percent are indigenous aboriginal. We have 75 percent who are non-aboriginal. All of the senior management at Beaufort-Delta are female. For Deh Cho, 49 percent, almost 50 percent are indigenous aboriginal out of 85 employees. All of the management are female. For Fort Smith, 49 percent out of 127 employees are indigenous aboriginal. Forty-seven percent are non-aboriginal. Senior management is 100 percent indigenous aboriginal. For the Sahtu, out of 65 employees, 41 percent are indigenous aboriginal and 58 percent are non-aboriginal. For senior management, none of them are indigenous aboriginal or female. For Stanton Territorial Authority, out of 474 employees, 10 percent are indigenous aboriginal, 9.7 percent indigenous non-aboriginal and 80 percent are non-aboriginal, 66 percent of the management are female. For Deh Cho, out of 76 employees, 61.8 percent are indigenous aboriginal and 38 percent are non-aboriginal. For Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, out of 155 employees, 11.6 percent are indigenous aboriginal, 7.1 percent indigenous non-aboriginal and 81 percent is non-aboriginal. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will be good when we can get that information, if the Minister could provide that to Members because there are numbers that you were calling out that won't match what is on the page here. If anything,

the numbers are higher than what is being announced here. Also in regards to your percentages, I think it is important in order to get the feel for the percentages. I think you have to know what the status of those individuals are. Are they janitorial positions? Are they basically administration positions or are they actually the doctors or nurses? You can break it down by groups. I would just like to know if you can also provide that so when you talk about a high percentage...But I mean, you can have a high percentage, but those could be the low paying jobs versus people on the administration/management side of the health care system. I would just like to ask the Minister if we can get that information.

I would like to ask a question before I go. There was a program in the past called Public Service Career Development Program which was very helpful to the public service by way of allowing our employees to take career courses and programs so they can enhance themselves. Has the department considered looking at something like that? I know we are looking at the area of the Nursing Program. We are getting people into that program. I think there are other areas within that structure we can look at in regards to the social service side, the mental health side, the career development side so we can deal with problems where we have a bottleneck and basically have people interested but they just don't have that sort of vocation or the capacity. Is that something the Minister can deal with? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: My information is that we do not have that public service career advancing program but we do have built into our system the Health and Social Services Human Resources Professional Development Training Program where the employees can access them where they can. For some of those services, we also ask them to do a return of services agreement.

Mr. Chair, I agree with the Member that in the Health and Social Services system, it is not only what we provide but who provides it. We do need to continually focus on training our people to advance in the Health and Social Services field and encourage and support them as much as possible to go back to help the people from which they come as much as possible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a question related to page 8-10. It indicates an increase in seven positions from last year's active position summary 2009-10. If I can get an explanation of the reasons for the increase, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: The vast majority of them come from the investments we are making on DI/PAC and electronic health records. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I have two questions. Will these positions be ongoing in future years? How are these positions funded? Is this federal dollars which are currently funding them and will the federal dollars be available in future years to fund these positions if they go on forever? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: These are indeterminate positions ongoing and it is part of our strategic investment. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: It is my understanding that we are getting a fairly large component of federal dollars for these particular programs, the...(inaudible)...health programs and so on. I guess I would like to know whether or not the federal funding...We are receiving federal funding in the 2009-10 year and if that federal funding will continue beyond this next fiscal year for the electronic health records and the DI/PACs and so on programs. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: This is supported by federal funding for capital projects but we are supporting O and M, so it is sort of a partnership. It is not part of the staff funding or any other...There are all kinds of different federal funding but this one we see ongoing for the foreseeable future. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that answer. If this cost for seven PYs is going to carry on as an item and if, as it has been described, these particular health information systems are going to create some efficiencies and so on, is there an expectation that there will be savings as we move towards more electronic information systems? Will any of the cost of the extra seven PYs be offset by efficiencies or savings as we go into the full cooperation for all these programs, Telespeech, IEHR, EMR and the DI/PAC systems? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, this is a partnership between the GNWT and the federal government in a way, though there is not a formal contract. The federal government is providing upwards of \$13.5 million for us to be able to put in those capital equipment, DI/PAC, Telespeech machines and electronic health records programming. GNWT is providing O and M funding for almost \$7 million, so it is a \$20 million project.

The Member's question is how we measure these efficiencies. I think, from anything we know, that if we could have Telespeech stations in all of these schools and health centres that we are placing

them in, we hope to be able to use them so that our children and clients in these small communities could access service. Now is that going to save us money? I don't know, but it certainly will enhance service and make services available to these people who need them and didn't have them before.

For DI/PAC, I think it will do enormous good for people in our communities to be able to not have to travel somewhere to have their images and pictures looked at and be interpreted. Often, sometimes it is really hard to tell in health care funding, if you put in \$10, are you going to get \$10 in savings, because sometimes having more in there increases services. It may add more medical travel. It is really hard to do a straight correlation. But for the health and social services system, we know that our residents value every service we do. We have to constantly meet the challenges of streamlining and bringing efficiencies to the system so that we could keep up with the growth. But it will never be have we saved \$100,000 here so we can use it for something else. That is hard to do. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you for the explanation. I don't have anything against the value of these programs. I think this is the way that we should be going, that we should be moving towards the use of greater technology. I just wondered if there was any known savings at this point that could be identified. That is fine that there isn't. I would ask the department, as we go through this next year and as these programs pretty much get into full operation, that the department look at providing some sort of a measure and to try to determine the benefit of these programs. The business plans that we reviewed in November did have measures for various items within the business plan. I would ask the department to provide a measure for the value of these particular programs in next year's business plan. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, I think that is a really important point in that while I am saying we are not going to be able to demonstrate that we are going to save \$300,000 or \$500,000 or whatever, I think we need to be able to demonstrate that by having this, our cost increase might not be as high as it might otherwise be. I also want to offer the Member and the standing committee that I have been advised of this person who are a little bit of a guru about how the electronic equipment and programs that are in place are going to revolutionize our health care delivery system and they have offered to meet with any Members who might want to have more information on that. I think it's something that would be very worthwhile because he will be able to show how essential this is and that it might actually save us money, if not reduce further costs as we go forward. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: That was what I was looking for is some measure of the value and evaluation of these particular programs. For the offer of a bit of briefing or an education, I guess, in regard to these programs, I think this could be referred to the Social Programs committee. Somebody will make sure that the Chair is advised. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, still on page 8-10. If I can get an account for any of the pluses and minuses of positions and what specific positions they are. The raw numbers account for seven in gross for indeterminates. When we look at total, it appears to be a change of 12, but sometimes that's not necessarily the true reflection of the change. For example, if there were 12 positions gained in this particular area, that could mean 14 positions were new but two were reduced which would give me that number. I'd like to know how many positions were reduced and how many positions are presented as new and what positions are they. I think I've heard the DI/PAC with plus seven so it shouldn't take long to account for most of these, I assume. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: We have a new position under Building Our Future strategic initiative, in-house respite services, another position full-time under Healthy Choices framework, another on enhancing emergency services which is a policy analyst legislative person who is tasked to work on ambulance and ground ambulance services in partnership with MACA. We have five new positions under electronic health and medical records and imaging, that's under DI/PAC so those are eight new positions. What are we missing? Two positions? Those are eight positions. Five full-time and five part-time. Sorry.

MR. HAWKINS: I have to admit, that was a little bit confusing because if I add the five full-time and the five part-time, they didn't really add up to...I'm still trying to find...I've got more than 12, I guess, the way the Minister spelled it out. If we can get some further clarification...Just run through it really fast. I've got the respite, I've got the healthy choice, I've got the emergency service policy person, five electronic health, DI/PAC, but I thought she said there were seven DI/PAC positions.

Mr. Chairman, in short, if the Minister is willing to provide this in writing as soon as possible, I'll accept that. Were any positions reduced in this exercise of changes within the active position summary and what were they?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, there were no positions reduced and I'd be happy to provide the information in writing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Anything further, committee? On page 8-10, active positions summary, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. We're moving on to 8-11, active positions, health and social services authorities, information item. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: On the previous page, the Minister gave us a breakdown on the number of incumbents in each of the health authorities and I noticed that as she was going through the list the number of employees exceeded the total number of positions in virtually every case. I'm curious if she could just give me a bit of an explanation about that.

Also, in the eight authorities, the number of established positions has gone down in three of the authorities. It went down in the Tlicho by four positions; it went down in the Beau-Del by seven positions; it went down in Stanton by eight positions. I'm curious if the Minister could also tell me in those reductions, and I'll also point out in some of the authorities the numbers did go up, but in those authorities where there were reductions, did those reductions result in the loss of people or were they the loss of vacant positions. Basically what I'm asking is, are there affected people in those authorities where we are losing positions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Elkin.

MR. ELKIN: The reductions in the authorities were related to the mitigation measures the authorities implemented last fall. I believe there was one incumbent affected.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Elkin. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Not sure I caught that. One employee resigned or one employee was affected. Okay, with that one, were we able to find him another job or have they since left the system? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: It's hard to talk about one person without being specific. I could advise the Member that she's on the affected status. I don't have the latest...I remember signing a letter about

six weeks ago that she was under affected status. I could get an update on that information for the Member.

MR. ABERNETHY: I just wanted to hear that the employee was on the affected status. I think the government did a really good job coming out of the last budget, with the number of positions that had been eliminated, to result in 14. I think the government did a really good job finding those people on the affected list jobs. I hope that they continue and I'm certain that they will.

You didn't address the question about, you know, in most of the cases you identified more employees in established positions. Since I'm talking, I might as well keep talking. Earlier, when we were going through the business plan, it was identified that one of the positions in your authority in Stanton was being reduced to half time; it was a recreational position. We continued to hear an awful lot about that position and the value that it provides within the authority. Can you tell me a little bit about what the plans are for that position? Is that position off the list of positions that we hope to affect someday or is it going to be moved somewhere else after, say, the construction of the Dementia Centre? What are the plans for that position? If you can tell me, that would be great. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. SANDY LEE: With respect to there being more bodies than PYs, I think the Member knows from being in the HR world, that is common practice that there might be more bodies because vacancies and people moving around and such, that explains that.

With respect to the position at Stanton Territorial Health Authority, that is one of the parts of the mitigation measures. Members understand that all of the authorities were required to balance their budgets last year and Stanton Territorial Health Authority has had to actually climb high and a long way to bring their financial situation to where they are. That's just part of the mitigation measures. I know that the Members expressed their support for maintaining that position and the CEO worked to keep that at a half-time position. As the Minister, when I am asking the authorities to balance their budgets, I do have an obligation to accept the proposals that the authority provides because they've had to make very difficult decisions, they've had to go through all of their positions to see where they could mitigate without undue hardship, understanding of course that every mitigation measure that the authorities have had to take have implications. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: I get that. I've heard you and I know that you have reduced that position to part time. What's the long-term goal for that position? Is that position going to be transferred to the dementia

facility...(inaudible)...when the dementia facility is finished or...Because the service they provide is quite important. I mean, I'm of the opinion, and it might be an assumption, but I'm assuming that once that facility is built that a number of the people that are staying in our extended care ward can be transferred there. The need for that physical activity and that activity continues. What is the plan? I guess I'm trying to get to that. What are we going to do with that position and will it continue to support the physical activity of patients who are currently in our extended care, once they are no longer in our extended care? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Member is correct in understanding that once the Territorial Dementia Centre opens and becomes fully operational that many of the residents who are in extended care at the hospital will be moved there. Will there be a direct transfer of employees from the Stanton Territorial Hospital to YACCS? That's a different question. Stanton authority is government, YACCS is not. I think it's reasonable to think that because YACCS will be looking for people with that sort of skill set that that is possible, but we wouldn't be...What I would say is anybody who's under affected employee status will have the first choice of employment with any jobs that are open within the government. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: One last question. The position, the recreation position, it only ever did half-time recreation; the rest of that job, I'm under the impression it was doing other things like volunteer coordination and a few other things. Now that it is just basically focused on the recreation stuff half time. What happened to those other responsibilities? They didn't disappear. Did they go to other positions? How are we ensuring that those things are still being done within the authority? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. SANDY LEE: The mitigation measures had to...All of the authorities try to mitigate and work with positions where some of their responsibilities could be assumed by others. That's not always possible because we can't assume that. That's not the way we work. I mean, all of the mitigation measures had impact somehow. I do recall that in getting this information about this specific position that that work was going to be done by others. I understand that's not the ideal situation; it is a difficult situation but it's something that had to be done. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Thank you, committee. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate the Member bringing up the issue of recreational therapist, as I had intended to raise it as well. I'd like to know from the Minister what work is being done from the point of

view of trying to re-establish it as a permanent, full-time position. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: There is no plan to reinstate that position on a permanent basis. As I have indicated, Stanton Territorial Health Authority was experiencing an almost \$9 million deficit last year. There was a lot of pressure in this Assembly to balance the budget but at the same time I think the Assembly, and myself as Minister and the officials, wanted to ask the authority to balance their budget but do it in a way that was not going to severely impact programs and services. Mitigation measures that the hospital took were upwards of about \$4.5 million. This position was part of that. I understand that there are people who feel that this is not the best way to go forward, but it was a choice between reducing half-time nursing or...I mean, you just can't make choices but it was something that the authority had to do. They have had to, where they can, come up with ways to reduce the deficit. I've accepted that mitigation measures package from Stanton as well as all the other authorities. There are no plans right now to reinstate that position. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: What are the actuals when it comes to active positions at health and social services authorities? As noted earlier, I wrote some of the numbers down and the totals didn't actually add up. I'm just trying to understand what are the actuals of funded positions versus staff positions. Can we get some type of breakdown for that? It was difficult to follow. I'm well aware, as everyone else here is, that sometimes funded positions that aren't filled, they use that money elsewhere. This year is becoming more important than ever to focus in on making sure money is delivered to...(inaudible)...positions, that they're actually going to that purpose. Can I get a breakdown of the actuals of indeterminate positions through those health authorities as well as assuming full-time and then breakdown of part-time positions? As well, I'm curious on what each authority is carrying for casual employment. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I don't have that information on me right now. I will undertake to get that for the Member. At any given time, authorities could have all kinds of different bodies not only because they would use vacancy positions to hire other bodies but also some authorities get funding from other sources, as well, and keeping track of casuals and people on leave. We will have to do some work on that, so we will undertake to get back to the Member as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I'll accept that. I just want to make sure it's clear that I want to know how many positions are funded, how many positions are staffed, the breakdown between full-time, part-time and casual. While that is being done, I would like to know of the gross difference between positions, if there is a difference, to be noted. Again, pointing out that the end result of the change may not be reflective of the actual event that has taken place. I would like to get that sense as well. If I could have that as soon as possible, that would be sincerely appreciated. I'm not sure if other Members are interested in that but I certainly am. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: We'll do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Committee, we're on page 8-11. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: I just wanted to clarify that I would ask the Minister to provide information to all Members when she provides it to one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, will do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. Once again, committee, we're on page 8-11, active positions, health and social services authorities, information item. Hoping to blaze forward to 8-13. Do we agree? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I truly hope no one touched on this before, but has any further work progressed on bringing the personnel of the Hay River Health Authority into the GNWT workforce? I know there are issues of cost, retention and different things, but one of the opportunities that is lost is the ability to recruit and transfer and move people about in the system which would include Hay River. I just wondered what the status of that was with regard to personnel. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: There has not been real direct work on transferring those positions, although we are aware of the possible need or cost implications of doing that. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: It's probably been awhile since that situation has been costed or a cost-benefit analysis done of that particular initiative. I would like to ask the Minister if there is any plan during the upcoming fiscal year to look again at the situation in Hay River. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I will undertake to look at that again. Actually, I remember seeing quite recent information about that, so I will

undertake to look at that again and provide the Member with the information. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: That's all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the directorate section, this is responsible for policy, it's the policy division. An issue I raised in this House had to do with accreditation for massage therapists as a profession and the concern that there is no legislation or formal policy that is to cover that area. I am just wondering what work has been done in their policy shop in order to bring forward amendments to our Health and Social Services Act to address that gap in our system. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that issue has been brought up to me as a Regular Member and as a Minister. I understand the merit of that proposal. At the moment the profession as a whole is quite small and the work that would be involved in legislating that profession is much larger. So what the department and myself are considering is bringing a package of legislation that would deal with a number of unregulated professions in the North. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: If I remember correctly, the Yukon has a quick and easy way to deal with some of these things through their process and I would hope that the department would look at that as a mechanism for option. When can Members, such as myself, be looking for a package to deal with this type of issue? Can we expect something in this budget year or even sooner, in the sense of a couple of weeks or a couple of months, or should we sort of wait by the phone? When do we expect any adjustments to this? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: There are number of major pieces of legislation before the department that I need to work through. We don't have as many resources to address legislative changes as we would like, whether in Justice or in the departmental policy team. Also there are some other legislations that I am considering as well. So let me just tell the Member that I will look at regulating the profession of massage therapists and other professions again, and I will communicate to the Member and other Members in the House about where that would fit into the time frame. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I will certainly say that this is excellent in the context that that is what I am looking for to get a sense of where it is in the system. As well, at the same time the Minister is

addressing that, can she provide a summary of potential legislative options that the department is considering as initiatives? Perhaps Members like myself and other Members of the House may have some guidance on ones that we feel are important and should have good and due consideration by the department. There may be a focus from our perspective and I would be surprised if someone did not want to offer any advice from a Regular Member's point of view as to a priority, but it would certainly be good to know what type of legislative initiatives the department is working on or considering. If we could get that type of list, that would be great, from my point of view. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, and Social Programs can help with that too. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will communicate with the Member and the committee on that. The major legislations that I was referring to are ones that have already gone through standing committee. The names escape me right now, but there is some really heavy-duty legislation that has been in the works, either having gone through this standing committee or the previous standing committee as part of that legislative schedule that is what I was referring to. I understand that if I were to consider doing any other legislation, of course, I would be coming to the committee first. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Anything further? Moving on to Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Yes, just in regards to the deficit situation that a lot of the health boards were having, one of the areas of contention was the area of financial accountability and making sure that they were processing receivables and accountables at appropriate times. It was an issue having that work done. I am just wondering what improvements are there in regards to that, in light of the deficits we have seen over the years with certain health boards.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I think that some of the work that has been done with Stanton has been discussed in the House. Mr. Al Woods, as public administrator, went in there with very direct direction to look at what is causing deficit and how do we better control those or what are the weaknesses and strengths that came up on the balance review report. They have been working on agreements, and receivables, and payables and such.

With respect to Beaufort-Delta, I know that they were without a director of finance for a while. They

have someone with background in auditing and finances who has been hired by the authority -- I think the person started about 5 or 6 months ago -- and so they have more capacity there to look at their finances. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman in regards to, as Members know, we have an issue about services and programs, but when you try to pinpoint where the deficit is occurring from and what is the cost driver which is causing these deficits, I think it seems to be like pulling teeth. No one seems to be really pinpointing where the problem is and they sort of throw a buckshot scatter across the board, where they try to name everything from medical travel to late invoices. It seems like it is not really a system that works to actually pinpoint where the forced growth areas are, where the underfunded programs are occurring, where the cost of health care services...I mean, in most cases you can see what your cost drivers are at the front end, by having good accounting so that you can actually pinpoint where that problem is. But in the case of the Beaufort-Delta, we know that you have so many vacancies, but I just can't get where you end up with 20-some vacancies but yet you are still running a deficit. I think that without that I would just like to know what is this government going to do differently so that we can fix that problem and be able to get a spreadsheet, if we need, on the spot to identify where these cost drivers are so we can say this is what is causing the deficit, this is what is causing the lack of service delivery.

I know that the capacity issue is a problem in the North, but I know we just have a new Collective Agreement, so hopefully we will see an improvement in that area. So by doing these types of things it will hopefully deal with the problems. I would just like to ask the Minister what exactly is the department going to do differently to ensure that we have financial response and accountability from our health boards to be able to stipulate why we are running a deficit and, if so, where is that deficit occurring. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member's right in that there are a number of reasons that are put forward, there is no magic bullet saying exactly ABC are causing a deficit of XYZ.

Having said that, the Cabinet, the government is working through looking at some of the cost drivers in health care funding under the Refocusing Government Strategic Initiatives Committee, and I believe that they will be making a presentation to Regular Members on the work that we are doing. There are lots of elements in the health care system that are contributing to costs -- our demographics, general health conditions of our people -- and also within our system, out of the

seven health authorities that we have, all of the authorities are doing well financially in terms of balancing their budget or accumulating small to large surplus, except for Stanton and Beaufort-Delta. The two common factors of those authorities and the elements within those operations that are causing cost overruns are doctor services, specialist services, medical travel, many areas where the costs are hard to control because they are demand driven. That is a big area and that is the area that is under review to see how we can better, not control costs, but find efficiencies where we can and where exactly we can improve. That's the work of program review and there's a lot of good work being done there. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: In regards to the program review that the Minister touches on, again the committee, which is made up of Minister and whatnot, it's a functional element of being able to pinpoint the problem. I will just throw out some numbers here with regard to my riding. I will use 2007-2008. The communities I represent just on charters alone spent \$127,000. That's just three communities. You look at the cost with regard to the total costs to provide services in my communities with regard to population of 1,500 people, there were 25 cases. They spent \$1.4 million. These are actually costs you can actually pinpoint and identify where that cost driver is coming from. I think that is the type of information we need to be able to analyze and dictate exactly where those costs are coming from. Again, as part of your retention of the deficit and trying to bring it down, there has to be certain cuts and arrangements made. I am hoping that through those cuts and bringing down that deficit that you are not eroding any services which right now aren't even there by even making it harder to get programs and services in our communities and ensuring that the programs and services are being delivered and through this policy shop or directive help that you have, ensuring that they are actually providing health care services in light of the deficit situation they are running and making sure that's our number one priority. It's how do you get to that argument and make sure you do manage your expenditures, but manage in a way that you are still providing health care services in the communities that's being affected. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Member is exactly speaking the challenge of delivering health care services. I should point out that having vacancies in some of these authorities, especially the Beaufort-Delta, does not mean they shouldn't have a deficit. In fact, the authorities will tell you having vacancies may increase their cost of operating because having locums or agency nurses or somebody else coming to field those positions often costs more. So having vacancies doesn't mean that you have

money holding there not being spent. It's most often the opposite.

I do agree with Members that we can't run the health and social services system saying we have to balance the budget at all costs and we aren't running it that way, but at the same time we know that in order for us to make sure that our people are provided with essential health and social service programs, we need to find efficiencies or system changes wherever necessary to make sure that we maximize the value of our health care dollar, and that's what we are trying to do under program review. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: I would like to move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister, and your witnesses, and allow the witnesses to be escorted out by the Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you, I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 11-16(3), NWT Main Estimates 2009-2010, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

---Carried

Item 23, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 24, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Doug Schauerte): Orders of the day for Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Replies to the Budget Address (Day 6 of 7)
13. Petitions
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy
 - Tabled Document 11-16(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2009-2010
 - Committee Report 2-16(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on Matters Referred to the Committee
 - Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Historical Resources Act
 - Bill 3, International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act

- Bill 4, Public Library Act
- Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act
- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

22. Report of Committee of the Whole

23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:57 p.m.