



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**4<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 7**

**16<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Monday, October 26, 2009**

Pages 3469 - 3500

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

**Speaker**  
**Hon. Paul Delorey**  
(Hay River North)

---

**Mr. Glen Abernethy**  
(Great Slave)

**Mr. Tom Beaulieu**  
(Tu Nedhe)

**Ms. Wendy Bisaro**  
(Frame Lake)

**Mr. Bob Bromley**  
(Weledeh)

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**  
(Hay River South)

**Mr. Robert Hawkins**  
(Yellowknife Centre)

**Mr. Jackie Jacobson**  
(Nunakput)

**Mr. David Krutko**  
(Mackenzie Delta)

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**  
(Monfwi)  
*Minister of Justice*  
*Minister of Education, Culture and Employment*

**Hon. Sandy Lee**  
(Range Lake)  
*Minister of Health and Social Services*  
*Minister responsible for the Status of Women*  
*Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities*  
*Minister responsible for Seniors*

**Hon. Bob McLeod**  
(Yellowknife South)  
*Minister of Human Resources*  
*Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment*  
*Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board*  
*Minister responsible for Energy Initiatives*

**Hon. Michael McLeod**  
(Deh Cho)  
*Minister of Transportation*  
*Minister of Public Works and Services*

**Hon. Robert C. McLeod**  
(Inuvik Twin Lakes)  
*Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs*  
*Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation*  
*Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*  
*Minister responsible for Youth*

**Mr. Kevin Menicoche**  
(Nahendeh)

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger**  
(Thebacha)  
*Deputy Premier*  
*Government House Leader*  
*Minister of Finance*  
*Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat*  
*Minister of Environment and Natural Resources*

**Mr. Dave Ramsay**  
(Kam Lake)

**Hon. Floyd Roland**  
(Inuvik Boot Lake)  
*Premier*  
*Minister of Executive*  
*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations*  
*Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**  
(Sahtu)

---

## Officers

**Clerk of the Legislative Assembly**  
Mr. Tim Mercer

**Deputy Clerk**

Mr. Doug Schauerte

**Principal Clerk of Committees**

Ms. Jennifer Knowlan

**Principal Clerk, Operations**

Ms. Gail Bennett

**Law Clerks**

Ms. Sheila MacPherson  
Ms. Sarah Kay

---

Box 1320  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784  
<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

Published under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>3469</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3469</b>
14-16(4) - 20/20: A Brilliant North, NWT Public Service Strategic Plan (B. McLeod) .....	3469
15-16(4) - Public Service Capacity - Community Governments (R. McLeod) .....	3470
16-16(4) - NWT Literacy Strategy (Lafferty) .....	3471
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3471</b>
Emergency Communication Capacity along Highway No. 3 (Groenewegen) .....	3471
Chipsealing the Deh Cho Trail (Menicoche) .....	3472
GNWT Repairs Required to Joe Greenland Centre (Krutko) .....	3473
Recreation Leaders Day (Bisaro) .....	3473
Recognizing the Importance of Climate Change Issues (Bromley) .....	3473
Cost of Living Issues in the Sahtu (Yakeleya) .....	3474
Establishment of a New Territorial Park in Tu Nedhe (Beaulieu) .....	3475
Need for Renovations in J.H. Sissons/YK Aurora Campus Education Facilities (Abernethy) .....	3475
Local Housing Subsidy Program (Jacobson) .....	3476
H1N1 Swine Flu Vaccination (Ramsay) .....	3476
School Playground Accessibility (Hawkins) .....	3477
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>3477</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3478</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>3478, 3488</b>
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>3497</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>3498</b>
<b>MOTIONS</b> .....	<b>3498</b>
3-16(4) - Appointment of Conflict of Interest Commissioner (Beaulieu) .....	3498
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>3499</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>3499</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>3499</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, October 26, 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

Goal two, Engage: Magnetic Attraction. This goal, through the attraction of Northerners and others to

The House met at 1:34 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Please be seated. Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 14-16(4):  
20/20: A BRILLIANT NORTH, NWT PUBLIC SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the implementation of 20/20: A Brilliant North, NWT Public Service Strategic Plan is well underway. This plan is the first of its kind for the Department of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, 20/20: A Brilliant North is an important and exciting strategic plan that will guide the Government of the Northwest Territories human resource planning over the next 10 years and is being championed by all deputy ministers. The actions contained in the accompanying three-year action plan are ambitious, with year one focussing on the development of a number of programs, the second year piloting programs such as the training program for aboriginal employees and in year three, rolling out the full programs.

Goal one, Fixing the Foundation, supports 20/20: A Brilliant North's mission and vision by putting in place a firm foundation of excellent human resource management practices and services necessary to ensure the other strategic goals have the support to be successful. Work that has already commenced under this goal includes the establishment of a transition team with a focus on streamlining human resource processes and procedures and reducing the backlog in pay and benefits. Client service training has also been provided to Human Resources' staff in all regions; learning plans are currently being developed for all employees in Human Resources; and a client satisfaction survey will be issued to Department of Human Resources' clients prior to the end of this fiscal year.

the public service, and the engagement of existing workforce, will establish a public service that reflects our diverse cultures and provides high quality services to the residents of the Northwest Territories. Some of the exciting actions being worked on under this goal include: the establishment of an Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee; the establishment of recruitment strategies for hard to recruit occupations such as engineering, pharmacy and social work; and identifying ways to increase the support and representation of persons with disabilities.

Goal three, Dazzle: Diverse Opportunities, focuses on the commitment to the workplace and environment, individual wellness, and establishing and maintaining excellent relationships with our partners: the public and stakeholders. Under this goal the Government of the Northwest Territories Green Team has been established; a Summer Wellness Program was piloted in the Department of Human Resources; the Managers' Tool Kit was launched; regularly scheduled meetings commended with both the Union of Northern Workers and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association; cross-cultural awareness opportunities for employees are currently being developed and labour relations training is being offered to managers and supervisors in all regions.

Goal four, Inspire: Expanding Horizons, focuses on inspiring the public service to strive for continuous development and a culture of lifelong learning. Under this goal, the important work of developing aboriginal employees training programs, the implementation of learning plans and a new performance management framework are underway for all employees.

Last, but not least, goal five focuses on the future through excellence in planning for and management of the public service including the development of a succession planning framework that includes the transfer of knowledge. Under this goal, a framework for departmental human resource plans that will include an affirmative action component is currently being drafted and work is also underway on identifying common priorities and shared services where the Government of the Northwest Territories may partner with community

and aboriginal governments to improve human resource management in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we have much work ahead of us but I look forward to keeping the Members of this Assembly informed as we continue to implement 20/20: A Brilliant North. I am expecting that the first formal results, reporting on year one of the three-year action plan, will be tabled in this Assembly in June 2010. In closing, I would like to thank the Government Operations committee for their ongoing support and guidance as we move forward implementing 20/20: A Brilliant North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 15-16(4):  
PUBLIC SERVICE CAPACITY - COMMUNITY  
GOVERNMENTS

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in May 2008 I announced to Members that Municipal and Community Affairs would be leading the work on capacity building initiatives at the local government level, in full partnership with the Department of Human Resources as well as the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories.

Today I would like to provide Members with an update on the details of this exciting initiative. However, before I do, I need to thank our key partners in public service capacity building: the NWT Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT. Without their vision, pragmatic advice and informed analysis, we would not be as advanced as we are in the development of strategies that aim to address this issue. At both the board and staff levels, these two organizations are fully committed to rolling up their sleeves and provide hands-on efforts to make this opportunity as meaningful and far-reaching as possible.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Capacity for Local Government Initiative will include a series of strategies, each aimed at strengthening the capacity of local government administrators as well as the leadership capacity of mayors, chiefs and councillors so that they can provide effective direction and support to their staff.

The first priority for the initiative focuses on the key position councils need to both maintain the day-to-day operations and to implement their long-term vision; this is the local government administrator, also known as the SAOs and band managers. We all know that local governments in the NWT have undergone significant evolution and transformation

in their relatively short history. As a result, the skill set required to manage a local government has expanded significantly and at this point, many NWT local governments are challenged to recruit and retain competent administrators. This initiative will work to address this challenge and raise the profile of this rewarding and exciting profession.

Working in collaboration, the NWT Association of Communities, Local Government Administrators of the NWT, the Department of Human Resources and MACA have developed a number of strategies as part of this initiative. One of the larger initiatives is the Administrator Development Program, where local governments can apply for two-year funding to support either a trainee or mentor for their administrator position, depending on the current needs of the local government. There will be strong encouragement for local governments to hire Northerners into their permanent administrator position.

Another initiative is the Good Governance training for elected leaders. This program was successfully piloted earlier this year by the School of Community Government with a number of participants who were attending the NWT Association of Communities annual general meeting. This training will be offered to every newly elected council, on an ongoing basis, so that councillors have a common knowledge base around roles and responsibilities, especially in relationship to their administrator.

There will also be an Administrator Mentorship Program where skilled, experienced administrators will be available to formally mentor those who are developing their skills. As well, a pool of professionals will be developed, where local governments can access temporary expertise on an interim basis to troubleshoot or maintain services during a vacancy.

Professional development workshops will be held to build the skills and expertise of administrators. The first one, planned to coincide with the Local Government Administrators of the NWT 2009 annual general meeting, will address recruitment and retention challenges in local governments.

As well, an array of promotional materials will be developed, including brochures, information on Local Government Administrators on the NWT's website and the production of a video on council-administrator engagement. These will be targeted primarily to Northerners to encourage them to consider the interesting and challenging work opportunities available in local governance.

In past discussions I have had with standing committee, they have provided excellent ideas and suggestions on the topic of community capacity, and we look forward to their input and analysis prior to the formal launch of this initiative.

I would like to thank Mayor Gord Van Tighem, from the NWT Association of Communities, and John McKee, from the Local Government Administrators of the NWT, for their leadership.

A capable public service at all levels of government is essential if we want to see quality programs and services developed and maintained for our citizens. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are providing the tools, supports and resources to local governments to make this happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 16-16(4):  
NWT LITERACY STRATEGY

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, increasing literacy levels among the people of the Northwest Territories is a top priority for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. We recognize the importance of literacy across the lifespan and throughout society. Literacy is not so much a matter of whether or not people can read, but rather about how well they can read and use different kinds of information. The NWT Literacy Strategy, Towards Literacy 2008-2010, focuses on helping people lead fulfilling lives and contribute to society. The new strategy represents the ongoing commitment of the Government of the Northwest Territories and our partners, including schools, Aurora College, the NWT Literacy Council, communities, families, individuals and others, to improve the overall literacy of Northerners.

We built upon our past strategy and have increased funding in a number of areas. For the 2009-2010 years there is a total of \$3.4 million budgeted for the Literacy Strategy. Some of our increased investments include \$350,000 to provide literacy programming in smaller, remote communities throughout the NWT, and \$150,000 to support community libraries. This money brings books to northern communities to give residents access to resources they need to improve their literacy.

Another focus on our revised strategy is for those NWT adults who have not finished high school. ECE is in the process of implementing an adult diploma equivalent to the NWT Secondary School Diploma. The new model allows NWT adults to earn a Grade 12 diploma through a combination of academic course credits and prior learning assessment and recognition credits. Education, Culture and Employment is presently working to put the supports for the adult high school diploma in place.

Mr. Speaker, youth literacy is also a critical area of concern in the Northwest Territories. We are investing in youth literacy by \$250,000, focusing on

youth between 16 and 25 years of age. We are specifically targeting out-of-school and at-risk youth. To reach this vulnerable group, we are working with youth centres across the NWT to emphasize the importance of literacy and help young people develop their literacy skills.

The department is also undertaking a Youth Literacy Gap Analysis to look into best practices and practical steps that we can take to increase youth literacy in the Northwest Territories. A Youth Literacy Working Group was established that will direct the work on the Youth Literacy Gap Analysis. Recommendations from the report will be used to develop a youth literacy action plan for the duration of the strategy.

Mr. Speaker, with 11 official languages, it is also important to encourage Northerners to use their traditional languages. We are increasing our emphasis on supporting aboriginal language literacy, emphasizing the importance of being able to speak in the indigenous languages of the North. This will form part of a larger plan to invigorate and support aboriginal languages.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we also established a Literacy Strategy Advisory Committee which represents all regions of the Northwest Territories and include representation from the NWT Literacy Council and Aurora College, as well as other organizations that have a strong interest and commitment to literacy. This committee will guide the implementation of the NWT Literacy Strategy. Literacy is important to everyone, from infants to elders, in all official languages and requires the involvement and support of everyone in society in order to achieve our goals. We look forward to continuing to work with our many partners to increase literacy awareness and levels in the NWT. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION  
CAPACITY ALONG HIGHWAY NO. 3

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to talk about the Department of Transportation and its Minister.

Mr. Speaker, in the South Slave we are happy to have roads. We have a good road network system. I empathize with those who are from areas where that is still an aspiration to be realized. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a bit about the Department of Transportation and their responsiveness to the issues that I have raised with the Minister and in this House, and I hope my colleagues don't feel

bad, because I realize that not everybody loves the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, when I went to the ferry crossing one year and the ferry was out, and I got all the way to Fort Providence before I realized that, I suggested they get a solar powered sign outside of Yellowknife that tells what the status of the ferry is, and they did that right away and it worked out very, very well. I asked for a roadside turnout between Enterprise and the border, and right, just like magic, there went up the sign and there was the roadside turnout.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Wow! Wow!

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, just recently I asked the Minister, I said, why has the road been chipsealed between Enterprise and Hay River for three months and the lines haven't been painted on. And, like, 24 hours later I was on the road and there were all the lines on the road.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Whooo.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I went to the Minister about a steel supply contact that we didn't feel had been resolved fairly, and it was resolved to the satisfaction of my constituent. We had a gravel crushing contract that was not being resolved to the satisfaction of a constituent and it went our way.

Mr. Speaker, I raised the issue of the graffiti on the sign at the border, and I know that the Minister's not responsible for Justice, but the next day the corrections inmates were out there and repainted the sign at the border. Mr. Speaker, I told the Minister we didn't need a bridge at the Deh Cho, we didn't need the Deh Cho Bridge, but he didn't listen to me. But I guess you can't win them all.

Mr. Speaker, today I have another great idea. Mr. Speaker, the issue of black ice on the roads that are paved and chipsealed has become a real problem. It is a problem this time of year, and just last night my husband and I stopped just north of the border to check a vehicle that was rolled in the ditch. We did not know we were on black ice until we touched the brakes to stop and try and help someone while we were going by.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation today if it would be possible to get another solar powered sign, perhaps at the border, so people can phone in and let people know that are coming behind them that there are hazardous road conditions. Those could be posted remotely to make the road safer for the travelling public. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CHIPSEALING THE DEH CHO TRAIL

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is interesting my Member's statement is on transportation.

---Laughter

I certainly hope he listens. Mr. Speaker. I have spoken many times in the past about the need to improve the Deh Cho Trail and the improvements this would mean to the safety of residents, truck drivers and tourists. It would also be beneficial to the economy. The Deh Cho Trail, Highway No. 1 from the Providence cut-off to Checkpoint and all the way down Highway No. 7 to the B.C. border is a route that the residents of the Deh Cho travel regularly for work, to attend appointments and to visit family and friends. They depend on the road for the delivery of goods to their communities.

The Deh Cho Trail is also a scenic road trip. Tourists can drive north from Alberta and along the way visit beautiful waterfalls, well-equipped camping facilities and several Deh Cho communities. They can continue their journey on to Fort Simpson or follow the Liard River to Fort Liard on the way down to B.C. This circle route is well promoted by Industry, Tourism and Investment to national and international visitors to our Territory and is an important part of our tourism infrastructure. If the Northwest Territories portion was upgraded, the route would increase the popularity.

A main concern about the road, for both residents and tourists, Mr. Speaker, is safety and reliability. When the road was washed out last year and closed for several weeks, it had a big impact on Fort Liard residents. The cost of groceries and other essentials went up, because items certainly had to be shipped by air.

We must ensure that this road is safe and reliable on a year-round basis. The logical solution is to make it a priority to property upgrade this portion of the highway infrastructure with chipseal, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that the capital estimates for 2009-2010 did indicate some 70 kilometres of work on Highway No. 1 and the Deh Cho will be completed early in the 2010 construction season, Mr. Speaker.

I urge the Minister of Transportation to include the chipsealing of the Deh Cho Trail in the capital plan for the next two years. The benefits to the economy, to tourism and the safety of travellers would be the legacy of this 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Mahsi cho.

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



MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
GNWT REPAIRS REQUIRED TO  
JOE GREENLAND CENTRE

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Social Services announced last week they are establishing a new committee, the Territorial Administration Committee, to look at the administration of applicants to a long-term care facility. Mr. Speaker, I think that we, as a Territory, realize that we have some tenant facilities throughout the Northwest Territories, small facilities like in the Joe Greenland Centre in Aklavik to a large facility such as the Dementia Centre here in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, I think it is essential that we ensure that we have a fair and equitable access for process but, more importantly, from the aboriginal people and the aboriginal communities that we like to keep our loved ones as close to home as possible in regards to the culture, language and, more importantly, the food that people depend on.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that, as a government, these facilities are used with the best available clients and the people in need. Mr. Speaker, we do have to ensure that all facilities are operated at their potential capacity and ensure that all treatment facilities or facilities are provided essential services to carry out that responsibility. Mr. Speaker, I state that because the Joe Greenland Centre is repaired and in need of some major repairs in regards to the assessments that have been done. Some repairs have taken place, but a lot of repairs still have to be concluded. This is an aging facility, but again I would like to bring it to the attention of the Minister of Health and Social Services that when we look at facilities throughout the Northwest Territories, we have to assess them all on the same term and basis to ensure that they all operate in regard to the same type of condition rating, but, more importantly, ensure that they are filled to capacity.

Mr. Speaker, my fear is that facilities such as the Joe Greenland Centre are going to be shunned away because of the simple size of this, and the larger facilities will receive all the attention. Mr. Speaker, I hope that is not the case. At the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services questions regarding this decision. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
RECREATION LEADERS DAY

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unknown to many of us, I imagine, is the fact that today has been declared Recreation Leaders Day. Our very own NWT Recreation and Parks Association is highlighting the contribution of recreation leaders in

our Territory by declaring October 26<sup>th</sup> as Recreation Leaders Day.

Members of this House often speak of the importance and the need for programs and activities for our youth. They also give tribute to those residents in our communities who step up and provide the necessary programs and activities for our youth and for all residents of our communities.

Recreation leaders come in many shapes and sizes, Mr. Speaker. They are volunteers, they are professionals, they are young, they are old, they are male, they are female, they are people like the Yellowknife Snow King, they are our facility maintainers, they are Arctic Winter Games team coaches and Arctic Winter Games regional coordinators, they are Nordic walking instructors, they're the teachers in our schools who open the gym at night so the kids can be active, the ones who lead the on-the-land camps, the ones who start music and craft groups after school. The list is endless. But all of these people have one thing in common: they willingly give of their time and expertise to further recreation activities for NWT residents; recreation activities which are indoors, outdoors, all seasons of the year. Each and every day our rec leaders provide invaluable community support in recreation and sport.

The value of participation in recreational activities is well known. Recreation, sport, fitness, arts, culture, parks, are all essential to personal, social, economic and environmental well-being. Engaging in recreational activities leads to happier, more positive lives for people of all ages. It provides healthy activities for our youth to keep them away from the unhealthy ones. It provides activities for our elders to keep them healthy, happy and young at heart.

The enthusiasm and leadership shown by our rec leaders makes huge contributions to the social and economic wellness of the NWT and to our communities. Rec leaders, through their actions, encourage all of us to achieve better health and well-being as individuals. The motto of the NWT Recreation and Parks Association is: Recreation for Life. Today we acknowledge those people who make sure that NWT residents can live up to that motto. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF  
CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize and applaud current best efforts of our citizens, aboriginal governments and non-government organizations to meet key

environmental challenges and to point out opportunities now before us for greater progress.

On the critical issue of climate change, I am happy to see our government making strong first steps, and I also note our partners at the City of Yellowknife are making remarkable progress with a community energy plan meeting their original targets well ahead of schedule through such actions as improved energy efficiency standards for buildings, shifts to wood pellet heat and even pursuit of geothermal energy at the former Con Mine.

I want to recognize a group of dedicated citizens who organized a Climate Justice Now march just this Saturday in a run-up to Kyoto negotiations in Copenhagen this December, calling for strong action by all governments to combat climate change. This reminded me of a summer gathering in Inuvik of youth from across Canada committed to fighting climate change. It was organized by Ecology North, the Pembina Institute, the Gwich'in Council International, the Arctic Athabaskan Council and Climate Action Network Canada. The Inuvik Declaration they produced makes several important observations. We've done a lot, but we must do more.

It is time for governments to set ambitious science-based targets for greenhouse gas reductions in the NWT and Canada. The federal position on combating climate change is an embarrassment to Canada and an immediate threat to the safety and security of northern citizens and indigenous people in particular. Science shows that Canada and the world must reduce greenhouse gas production by 25 percent by 2020 from 1990 levels if we are to avoid disastrous and accelerating consequences.

We must assist developing countries to reduce their emissions and adopt new technologies. We must also make the strongest possible efforts to shift our federal government to a more responsible and progressive position.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our Members and this government to take firm action, to think locally with a firm and ambitious NWT carbon neutral date and a plan to get there, and to act globally by strongly urging the federal government to accept our international responsibilities and dramatically improve our position at the Copenhagen negotiations of the new Kyoto Protocol this December, and I will be asking our Minister of the Environment some questions about that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COST OF LIVING ISSUES IN THE SAHTU

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What if you went to a grocery store on your way home today to buy a few basic things like four litres of milk and some dish soap, and it costs you \$25? Some people might think it was a mistake, but not if you live in Fort Good Hope. It's normal.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living in the Sahtu is amongst the highest in the Northwest Territories. We're paying through our teeth. At \$2.42 per kilowatt for electricity, Colville Lake pays the highest power rate of all Northwest Territories communities. Let's start by having some real discussions on a review of the electrical rates in the Northwest Territories.

Four litres of milk costs around \$13.29 in Fort Good Hope, compared to \$4.59 in Yellowknife or \$7.49 in Inuvik. We need to have a real Food Mail Program so that all milk is the same price everywhere.

The average income in our communities is \$42,604 per year. Most employment opportunities are only part-time or seasonal. In Tulita, where the average income is \$31,800, 35 percent of the households are in core need. That's more than twice the territorial average. The price of groceries limits the number of healthy choices families can make.

One of the goals of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly is to reduce the cost of living. We should invest in more efficient ways to get energy and power into our communities. We need an all-weather road into our communities. Our people should be able to afford the house they live in. We should encourage local stores to shelve our local meat and fish. We need to create jobs by developing renewable resources like tourism, like the Doi T'oh Park or implementing woodchip or other wood product industries like a firewood cutting service for seniors. These may not be high paying jobs, but they would go a long way to helping our families and they support the Assembly's goals.

Some of the solutions require large investments upfront, but they will benefit our people far longer than most subsidies. Our people deserve the opportunity to succeed. Let's give them our hope.

I believe it's time for a new way of thinking. We need to be creative and it's often said that we need to think outside the box, but right now far too many people in my region, and maybe other people in the other regions, feel that we are cornered into a box waiting to be busted out. Some people are living...

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Some people are living in poverty in this wealthy Northwest Territories, but it shouldn't be the case, and we here in the House have the responsibility to be creative and do something to change this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW  
TERRITORIAL PARK IN TU NEDHE

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about establishing a new territorial park in the Tu Nedhe riding near Fort Resolution. Having recently returned from a community visit to Fort Resolution, I met with a group of residents who informed me of their desire to establish a new territorial park. Currently, I believe, there has been some discussion around establishing a territorial park at Mission Island; however, there is some concern over this, because Mission Island holds significant spiritual interest for the community.

Mr. Speaker, many residents do not want to see this sensitive area turned into a tourist attraction. The community would like to see a new territorial park established elsewhere. They have identified a location just outside the community, along the Slave River.

Mr. Speaker, being raised in Fort Resolution, I am familiar with the area and I can say it's a beautiful, scenic spot and would make an ideal location for a territorial park. Both the Slave River and the community of Fort Resolution have equal historical significance in the Northwest Territories. Fort Resolution is the oldest community in the NWT, first established in the late 1700s. The community has been designated as a national historic site, only one of four in the NWT. The Slave River has played a key role in opening the North. Famous explorers such as Samuel Hearne, Sir John Franklin and Alexander Mackenzie travelled this river enroute to their historical journeys.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the Slave River area supports a strong traditional subsistence activity of hunting, trapping and fishing for many residents. The basin area of the Slave River of 616,400 square kilometres and, again, I repeat, is one of the scenic jewels of our North.

Mr. Speaker, establishing a new territorial park will have both immediate and long-term significance in economic impacts for the community, immediate benefits during the construction phase and long-term benefits for maintenance and use for the park. One of the issues I have been raising in the House is a lack of employment and economic opportunity for the community.

Mr. Speaker, there will be increased revenues from tourists using this park. This project is a win/win for everyone; for people who live in Fort Resolution and for people that will use the park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
NEED FOR RENOVATIONS IN J.H. SISSONS/  
YK AURORA CAMPUS EDUCATIONAL  
FACILITIES

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, while discussing the capital investments within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, I made some comments on two projects that I felt were missing from the 2009-2010 Capital Plan; specifically the J.H. Sissons School and the Yellowknife Campus for Aurora College. For clarity, I want to point out I am not requesting that the GNWT turn J.H. Sissons into the new Yellowknife Campus or that Sissons be shut down. There is no evidence, in my opinion, to suggest that such an action would be appropriate and no research, that I am aware of, has been done. For the record, I reconfirmed with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment that the department has no plans in place to shut down any schools in Yellowknife.

My statement on Tuesday was intended to encourage the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the GNWT to think outside the box and to consider all avenues to address our capital and infrastructure needs. As a government spending public dollars, we must look for ways to maximize the dollars that we spend to ensure that we get the best results for our investments.

I mentioned Sissons only because I was already talking about Sissons School as a project that has clearly fallen off the capital plan. I am sorry for any stress that this reference to Sissons may have caused parents, teachers and students.

However, currently Sissons is part of a much larger problem. The problem of enrolment. Yellowknife is faced with a rapidly declining enrolment. Running schools that are only half filled increases costs significantly. High costs for students in facilities operating with low enrolment actually take dollars out of the programs for our children, money which could be used to enhance programming like immersion programs, if the system better utilized space.

My first concern is the education of our youth. I want this government to enhance programming that will give our youth the best results and prepare them for the world and their future in it. Enrolment

in Yellowknife has continuously dropped since 2002-2003 from 3,751 to 3,462 in 2008-2009. Projected numbers for 2009-2010 are even lower at 3,380.

Mr. Speaker, we the residents of the Northwest Territories, including the residents of Yellowknife, Members of this Legislative Assembly and the public school board, will be faced with significant challenges, many which are financial, over the coming years. Hard decisions will need to be made; decisions will be required, but cannot be done in the absence of research. Hard questions need to be asked.

I am committed to working with all interested stakeholders to find reasonable and responsible solutions; solutions that work in the best interest of Northerners, solutions which may include reprofiling school facilities.

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, this will require individuals to ask hard and, occasionally, controversial questions. For the sake of the children and their quality of education, I'm willing to ask these hard questions so that the relevant information can be collected and help decision-makers make informed and responsible decisions. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to encourage this government to think outside the box and challenge the status quo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON LOCAL HOUSING SUBSIDY PROGRAM

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my Member's statement is on the Local Housing Subsidy Program. Several sessions ago we gave the government instructions to review the Public Housing Subsidy Program, because since transferring administration from local housing organizations to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment there has been some serious problems on the delivery of the program.

Years ago when the government was first considering transferring the administration to ECE, many local housing organizations told the local government what the real problem was, and that was that the local housing authorities did not have the adequate resources to properly administer the programs. Mr. Speaker, however, the government is convinced that only the Department of ECE can properly run the program.

Over the years my constituents have expressed concerns with the way the public housing rental subsidy has been administered. Francis Wolki has

been very vocal with her community and how it has affected these changes. She's concerned with the people who have been in the same houses for years, never giving their LHOs any problems and recently getting letters of eviction.

Mr. Speaker, our region has a petition circulating to review all the regional leadership, urging all MLAs to work aggressively with this government to develop a solution to these issues. Housing is a core responsibility of the government. However, I expressed previously, recently developments of the government seem to contradict this principle. The housing conditions or the program implementation, especially for small and remote communities, has been in a crisis situation for quite some time. The recent changes of the Income Support Policy in relation to the community housing support has only created a worsening situation. The housing conditions in small communities such as Paulatuk are facing serious problems that the government must address.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to transfer the administration of the Public Housing Subsidy Program back to local housing authorities, with adequate resources to properly administer the program. Local governments know their communities' issues best.

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to transfer the administration of the Public Housing Subsidy Program back to local housing authorities, with adequate resources to properly administer the program. Local governments know their communities and issues best. They know the best ways to administer the programs.

Mr. Speaker, I'll have questions for the appropriate Minister. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON H1N1 SWINE FLU VACCINATION

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today marks the first day of a mass vaccination against the spread of H1N1 -- Swine Flu -- in our Territory. Nationwide, this will be the largest mass vaccination and immunization program in Canadian history.

Like many parents, my wife and I find ourselves struggling over whether or not to give our two-year-old son this H1N1 vaccine. We're even wondering, Mr. Speaker, whether or not we should get the shot ourselves.

I want to be clear that the Department of Health and Social Services is doing a great job at providing information about H1N1, and their website and public announcements have been good. I'm concerned over the fact that Health Canada is supplying the vaccine that our Minister of Health likes to refer to as the Cadillac version of a vaccine, to our residents and to the people of Canada. This vaccine, known as Arepanrix, contains such ingredients and formaldehyde and potassium chloride. Are we getting that information out to our residents?

Mr. Speaker, in the United States many parents are saying no to this vaccine. In China, over half the population says they don't want it and, indeed, there are many Canadians and residents here in our Territory that will say no to the vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, I know that these vaccines are different, depending on which country you live in. For example, in Australia they were using a vaccine called Panvax. This vaccine does not contain formaldehyde, like Arepanrix does. So there certainly are differences.

Mr. Speaker, like any vaccine, there are side effects associated with Arepanrix. I would like to advise those residents that want to know more about the vaccine, to visit Health Canada's website for a product information leaflet on the Arepanrix vaccine. It certainly is enlightening.

It's certainly not my intention today to scare people away from getting the vaccine, and at the end of the day, when you weigh the odds and the fact that I couldn't stand to see my son become sick with H1N1 and hospitalized, he'll probably end up getting the vaccine.

Given the fact that getting this vaccine can, in rare cases, cause serious issues with the nervous system and paralysis, I'm wondering will those adversely affected have any legal recourse with the government. Do people receiving this vaccine have to sign a waiver, are people fully informed of the ingredients of this vaccine prior to it being administered, and are they asked about allergies, especially to eggs, Mr. Speaker? At the appropriate time I'll have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SCHOOL PLAYGROUND ACCESSIBILITY

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I'd like to talk about barrier-free schools and playgrounds. It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that this government stands for inclusive education and has for a long time. The issue being raised today is that some parents recently

requested money from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to improve accessibility at one of the Yellowknife schools, because at least one of their students is confined to a wheelchair and they wanted to make sure that the playground was as accessible as possible to them. However, Mr. Speaker, their funding was denied. Mr. Speaker, it's my view, to deny one child the ability to play and certainly enjoy fun time with their fellow friends is certainly one child too many from enjoying these lively and important activities.

If we want education to be inclusive, we need it to be fully barrier-free at all levels, from door to door, and that includes the playground. Mr. Speaker, buildings being built today are certainly taking these considerations into effect, but the old schools that have been built years ago do not necessarily have all the standards to meet the modern needs of today. Mr. Speaker, this is a territorial problem, not just a Yellowknife problem, and I would say that every school should have the ability to say their school and playground is as accessible as reasonably possible. I cannot say that enough, that all schools need to have this, again a territorial program.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment needs to work to develop a long-term strategy that ensures that all schools and playgrounds are accessible. I realize funding just doesn't fall from the tree, but I certainly know that some strategy could be developed.

Mr. Speaker, the call to arms to deal with this problem was when the parents decided to set up a link on the N.J. Macpherson website to get parents to help vote to get funding for their program. There is a group organization called Aviva Community Fund and they, based on votes from parents, will give away money to schools to help them with this problem.

Mr. Speaker, our playgrounds are special places for our youth as they grow up. I know that the Minister understands this, having so many children himself, the importance of good education and children having fun. So, Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to take this problem seriously and to do what it can today to help those kids of our tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to the gallery today to the presence of Mr. Gerry Gerrand, our Conflict of Interest Commissioner. I'd like to welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope

you're enjoying the proceedings. It's nice to have an audience in here.

Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

### Acknowledgements

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and send my congratulations to Mr. Glen Guthrie of the Sahtu.

Mr. Guthrie was awarded the Lloyd Cook Award for his commitment to further educate the public on wildlife management.

Mr. Speaker, this award is a national recognition with the Fur Industry of Canada, and we offer our heartfelt thanks to Glen for his hard work with people, especially with the youth. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 69-16(4):  
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION  
CAPACITY ALONG HIGHWAY NO. 3

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation. I, in my statement, thanked the Department of Transportation for their responsiveness to issues. The issue of icing, whether it be on airplanes, on highways, this is the time of year it would seem that there is a great potential, when the temperature is hovering around zero, for there to be icy conditions.

Mr. Speaker, between the NWT border and Enterprise is a very long stretch of highway which does not have good cell phone service. I know this because when we came upon this rolled truck last night at 8:40, and by the time we checked under it and around it to see if there were any victims at the site, until we got to report it to the RCMP over an hour had passed, Mr. Speaker. So I'm asking the Minister today if he thinks there would be merit in having an energized solar power-supplied sign at the border and one at Enterprise that could be remotely programmed to contain information about that long stretch of highway, so that if someone going over the road discovers an accident or discovers hazardous road conditions, if that could be programmed to send that message out to prevent someone else from getting in that accident. Even stopping on the highway to check out an accident creates another potential for vehicles to get into difficulty on black ice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member raises an important safety concern that we have on all our highways, especially the highways that have chipseal. We have been looking at a number of ways to try to deal with this issue, and then try to raise the awareness through the public and the people on the highway system during the times when we have challenges. We've incorporated a maintenance schedule that would allow us to have staff on the highway system seven days a week so that they can closely monitor, especially during the winter months, the events that are happening.

We've also brought on stream, over the last couple of years, a number of traffic signs, lit variable signs that we can use, and this year we're going to have a number of new ones, with a total of eight signs that give a number of responses to the travelling public, including bison locations, speed limits, it will measure how fast you're going, and we think it has merit. I think the Member's suggestion is a good one. We can certainly take a look at it.

We are trying to do other things that would help us in this area, including we've installed a road weather information system that runs on solar energy and would provide information back to our maintenance camps so that we have information readily available. That may be something that we can incorporate on Highway No. 1 that would help us out with this issue of black ice. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I mentioned, as well, that when one has the unfortunate experience of coming upon an accident that's already occurred, there are no shoulders on the road on that stretch of highway I'm talking about. So for an example, last night we had to basically stay right in the lane with our four-way flashers on, and someone coming around a curve, and they touch their brakes, you have the potential for another accident. So I guess I'd like to ask the Minister, in that particular stretch of highway, what are the plans for expanding the shoulder? There are no shoulders on that road now. They go to the edge of the pavement or the chipseal and it's just a straight drop-off on the gravel. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we've incorporated a four-year plan to deal with the issue that the Member's raising on Highway No. 1 from the border to Enterprise and further down towards Highway No. 3. The road width is, I think, eight metres and we are planning to expand and widen the road to a 12-metre roadway system that will allow us to park on the shoulders. We're also looking at ways to incorporate a number of pull-offs that would assist people that are travelling and want to rest or stop for various reasons. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Another feature that the Department of Transportation instituted at the ferry crossing was a live camera, a camera where people could go on line, go to the Department of Transportation website on the Internet and actually view what was happening with the ferry crossing. Is there any anticipation of the department expanding the webcam network so that more points on the highway system can be viewed by those who are thinking about venturing out and travelling? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, as of now, the request for a camera at the ferry crossing has been something we were considering. We don't have it built into our budget yet, but we certainly can take a look at it.

Yes, we continue to look at ways to expand our information collection through the intelligent systems that we have. If the Member had driven in, I am not sure if she drove into Yellowknife yesterday, but as she turned onto Highway No. 3, her vehicle would have been weighed, her speed recorded and the classification all documented. We have cameras on Highway No. 3. We have two cameras set up in Yellowknife that collect information. We have video collection units on two of the intersections here in the city that study traffic volumes, turning patterns and also vehicle classifications. There are a number of things that we have on the go. We would like to expand that to other road systems. At this point, some still are in the early testing stages. We will continue to monitor that. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** When you go on the website and you type in the AMA, Alberta Motor Association, they have the list of the cameras and they go all the way down through all the highway systems in Alberta. Maybe we could talk to Alberta and see if we can be added onto that network without creating our own. It is just an idea. I don't know if you can rename it something that people would know but, anyway, to go on and advise the travelling public of what kind of conditions the roads are in would be helpful. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** I certainly agree. Our budget of \$126 million, compared to I think Alberta is \$20 million for transportation, is a little bit not what we would like to see, but we continue to try to bring information. I appreciate the Member's comments, because we need to be able to provide the travelling public on road conditions, black ice and bison location. We need to be able to enforce speed limits and any other concerns of safety on our highways, including the width and being able to stop in emergency situations. We will continue to move forward on that. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 70-16(4):  
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW  
TERRITORIAL PARK IN TU NEDHE

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I spoke about establishing a new territorial park near the community of Fort Resolution. I would like to follow up with my questions to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me in general terms what the process for identifying and establishing a new territorial park is? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The most important consideration in establishing a territorial park would be to have community support and the community would identify the area for consideration. On our part, we would then undertake serious consultations with all affected stakeholders and certainly we would review our NWT Parks Act to see which category would best fit to meet the community's request. We would also have to have Government of the Northwest Territories departments review it. Once we got closer to actual establishment, we would need a park management plan. We would probably need an Order-in-Council to transfer the land. We would design the park and then, of course, we would have to come to seek capital to establish the park. That is one process.

Another process that other regions have used to establish parks are to go through the land claims negotiations process, but from what I understand, the process I described probably is closer to what the community wants to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the initial process will be closer to what the community is looking for. It is more of a campsite, although it is referred to as a territorial park. Can the Minister confirm if there is any funding in place for establishing this type of park in and around the area of Fort Resolution? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We would have some funding to do some planning work. I think that once we get closer to something concrete, we would have to identify funds through our capital plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to working with me a little closer and also working with the community to getting the wheels in motion for establishing a park in this new area that I am talking about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I would be pleased to work with the Member and the community of Tu Nedhe towards establishing this park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Would the Minister also commit to visiting with the community? It is a bit of a controversial issue around the establishment of the park in a different area. Would the Minister agree to meet with me and the leadership and other interest groups to talk about this new proposed site himself in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I would be pleased to visit the community with the Member and certainly anything we can do to help to facilitate, we will try to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 71-16(4):  
H1N1 SWINE FLU VACCINATION

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It gets back to my Member's statement where I was talking about H1N1 and the ingredients that are contained in that vaccine, Arepanrix. I would like to ask the Minister, before our residents are vaccinated with this vaccine, are they going to be fully made aware of all the ingredients of that vaccine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for the question. Just before the House today I took the opportunity to go to the flu clinic at the multiplex and I was pleasantly surprised that there was actually a line-up of people before the clinic opened. Once I got there, the room was full of residents who were taking on this offer to vaccinate. I was joined by the chief public health officer, Dr. Kandola, and she brought her child, as well as the president of the Medical Association and Mr. Dolynny, the pharmacist. My point being that I think these are people who have a lot of knowledge about this vaccine and they have studied that.

In fact, last week I remember talking to Dr. Kandola. They just got a study/clinical results on children on the impact of the vaccine on the children. These scientific results show that this vaccine showed more positive effects on younger children than even the GSK had originally thought. Mr. Speaker, Public Health Canada recommends this vaccine and, yes, when the residents go to get their vaccines, there

are staff there to answer any questions they may have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, again, that is a nice story. I am glad people are getting their shot, but the question I had for the Minister was: at the multiplex today were there product information leaflets available to the public who are getting their shot that clearly indicates every ingredient in that vaccine, Mr. Speaker? By the sounds of it, people have to ask what is in it. I don't think that is appropriate. I think that we should be providing the public with that type of information. I would like to ask the Minister, if that isn't the case, if she could provide that level of information to our residents. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I could assure the Member and perhaps I think anybody could go to the clinic there. I want to tell the House that the staff and the public health officer have been working really hard to answer any questions any residents have. I am aware that people have been calling about the ingredients. I know those questions are being answered. When a resident walks into the clinic, there is lots of staff there. There are nurses, doctors, anybody at the door and people are greeted and they are made to feel at ease. This is happening right now at the multiplex.

I understand the Member's concern. I think it is very important. At the end of the day, a decision as to whether they are going to take this vaccine or not is a personal decision. A lot of parents and everybody has to make that decision. I was happy to see that a lot of the people were there and taking the vaccine. I want to assure the Member that there are lots of health care professionals there answering any question that any resident may have about this vaccine and the vaccination program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Again, of course, people can ask questions. I think the Minister knows full well what I am saying. I would like to see a piece of paper there that clearly identifies what is in this vaccine, because on the Department of Health's website, you can't find exactly what the ingredients are in that vaccine. I had to go to Health Canada and I had to dig it out myself. Again, that is a product information leaflet on Arepanrix, if anybody is interested in finding that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also ask the Minister, given the possibility, then, that there are side effects with the vaccination, is there a waiver that people have to sign or is there any legal recourse if somebody should have a serious adverse side effect to the vaccination? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Speaker, there is no waiver for anyone to sign, and nobody has to take this vaccine unless there are questions that are answered. Mr. Speaker, I do have the ingredients in front of me. It says, split influenza virus, inactivated,



containing antigen equivalent to 3.75 micrograms haemagglutinin/dose, Antigen A/California, Excipients: Thimerosal, 2.6 mcg mercury/dose; sodium chloride, disodium hydrogen phosphate, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, potassium. Mr. Speaker, my point being, if somebody was there to read this label, would that help people to decide whether they should take this? My point being, we have people who are trained to understand this, people who are concerned about public health issues. It is better for doctors and nurses and public health officers to explain, okay, what is in here, what does it do, what kind of side effects could it have, what kind of impact could it have on my child, what kind of studies did you do, what is it supposed to do, and then have people explain in normal language that we could all understand what this is. Then it is up to the people to decide whether they want to take it for their child or their family. I took my mother there. Dr. Kandola had her 18-month-old baby there. She had him vaccinated. So we are doing everything we can to assure the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister forgot to say one of the ingredients on the list and that was formaldehyde. I would like to add that for her.

The other question I have, Mr. Speaker, on the Department of Health's H1N1 flu site, it says at the end: "MYTH: because H1N1 vaccine is new, it is untested and unsafe. FACT:" -- and at the end of that statement it says -- "and no safety concerns have been found." The reason, Mr. Speaker, I bring this up is because it is confusing for people out there when they do go to the Health Canada website and they see some of what are the side effects: very common; common; uncommon and rare; and the rare, one in a thousand; or very rare, one in 10,000.

So let's just look at the very rare, one in 10,000. If we inject 40,000 in our Territory with this, chances are four of them are going to come up with a neurological disorder. That is the kind of information that I think has to get out there and people have to see that, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, how come this isn't available for people at the vaccination centres? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I think it is important. This is a very serious public health issue. All of the experts are doing everything they can to get the information out. We should be very careful about not creating fear. I think what we want to do is to get the information out.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say, as the Minister of Health, that all vaccinations in Canada are subject to a very strict authorization process. They have a very high standard. The vaccine that is being used in Canada is not what is being used in the States.

Not only is it a different vaccine, it is a different type of vaccine and it is manufactured by different people. They are having clinical trials done in European countries. The reason why the implementation of this vaccine was delayed and was so bad, we would have enough time to get tested and the tests have shown and all of the public health officers have reviewed it. Dr. Butler-Jones was in Yellowknife announcing it on Friday and they are recommending that the risks associated with this vaccine are so small compared to the sickness and serious hospitalization that would be required by our residents, it is especially important for our small communities and isolated areas to take this vaccine, because benefits far outweigh any risks that might come out from this vaccine. Thank you.

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

#### QUESTION 72-16(4): SCHOOL PLAYGROUND ACCESSIBILITY

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about the issue of barrier-free schools as well as their playgrounds. The issue at hand is simply that we have one particular school, and I have no doubt in my mind that there are many others throughout the Territory, that could use some support to make sure that the school and the playgrounds are barrier-free. Mr. Speaker, my hope is that the Minister will see this as a broader and long-term solution, recognizing, I know, we can't solve every problem at once but we can certainly work towards doing our best today. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is: would he be able to look into this problem that N.J. Macpherson School is having, to see what support the Department of Education, Culture and Employment can provide at this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This is definitely an area that we need to look at with the schools. We are trying to make it as accessible as we possibly can, especially with the older infrastructure barrier-free schools. Those are the areas that we are always improving and enhancing, whether it be playground equipment or school accessing, the railings and so forth. Certainly I will work with the school boards and also with our department and with the MLA on where we need to identify those areas. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I may applaud the Minister for a fantastic answer on dealing with this issue. Mr. Speaker, just one last question. I

certainly hope, as I view this as a territorial problem not just a Yellowknife problem -- and I stress that -- would the Minister look into the feasibility, and I stress, look into only the feasibility at this time about drawing it into a long-term program where we can ensure that all our schools are barrier-free and certainly accessible not just to our students but to our community? Because, as we all know, schools are schools during the day, but they are also the heart of the community in the evening when you want community functions and events. Mr. Speaker, I am looking towards the bigger picture. Would the Minister take a look and see if it is feasible to set up a funding program that could work towards these needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, it is a territorial-wide challenge with some of these older facilities. So those are the areas that we need to highlight and my department has been working closely with the school boards to identify those areas barrier-free and try to identify some areas of funding, if that is required, working closely with the school boards. There are also parental advisory committees that we work closely with as well. Apparently there is funding allocated as well. Those are the areas that we need to discuss as a group. We will certainly talk further on this particular item. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 73-16(4):  
CHIPSEALING THE DEH CHO TRAIL

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Transportation and a follow-up on my Member's statement. I know that this year we were supposed to have I think it was 70 kilometres of chipseal done from the Providence junction towards Fort Simpson. I know that it was issued later in the year. I just want to ask the Minister again, what are the current plans the department has to complete this work and how soon? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd have to go to the department and confirm, but I believe the project has been deferred until next year. There was some concern, as the season progressed, with the amount of rain that we got and the saturation that the road became. Mr. Speaker, it's something that we'd still like to move forward on. There were questions raised by the Member on some of the other projects in his riding, including Highway No. 7 that we had to defer. It's really unfortunate; however, we can't control the weather, and we'll commit to having those projects

moved forward as soon as possible in the new year.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Certainly the residents of my riding were quite excited to have this project completed this year. However, we're patient people and we're glad to see that chipseal is coming, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to know the department's plans of any further work on chipsealing Highway No. 1 towards Fort Simpson beyond this in the new fiscal year 2010. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we've got a fairly aggressive plan to work on Highway No. 1 and other projects in the Member's riding, including Highway No. 7. We certainly have heard the comments he made in his Member's statement on a number of occasions and we've put together a budget over the next four years where we'll be targeting roughly \$30 million to...All the portions that require reconstruction, that Highway No. 1, needs to be widened from the border to Enterprise. We're also looking at doing some reconstruction from the junction of Highway No. 3 towards Simpson and, of course, Highway No. 7 needs fairly significant investment in terms of upgrades. The road has been really deteriorating and it's an aging piece of infrastructure with very poor soil conditions. We're going to try to get that all fixed up as soon as we can. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I'm pleased that certainly the department is making great strides and hopefully we can accomplish a lot of this work in 2010. In terms of Highway No. 7, Fort Liard residents have seen the B.C. side. They actually chipsealed their road up to the B.C. border, and they're asking me continuously when are we going to re-chipseal the road from Fort Liard back to the B.C. border once again. They're also looking to see the completion of the reconstruction that's occurring there. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, that's a difficult question to answer at this point. We are still doing a lot of work on the Highway No. 7 section, including an engineering assessment and functional design. We're also doing some of the necessary material preparation, crushing of the kilometre 3 and doing some of the upgrades that are required.

As to doing some actual chipseal, maybe. It's not something that we've decided as of yet. It's something that we'd like to do. Chipseal, of course, is something that really is dependent on the base and we'd have to be convinced that the road is going to hold up. It will be a decision that we will consider, but it's not a decision we have made as of today. Thank you.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister of Transportation prepared

to see that the chipseal will return to the residents of Fort Liard as they travel to B.C.? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, it's our goal to see chipseal applied to most of our roads, if not all of them, for the long term. As of yet, we haven't been able to really prove that it will stay in sandy conditions such as the Fort Liard area. We know some work was done on the B.C. side. We're going to take a look at that and see if we can do some test areas over the next while. We'd also like to do chipsealing on Highway No. 8 and other highways, for example. We think it's going to solve some of our safety issues and reduce some of the maintenance required, but we still have to ensure that it's going to work and we have to make sure we have our technology all figured out before we do that. But that's our goal.

We're also, Mr. Speaker, trying out different products that we think may be more durable than chipseal. Of course, any time you start moving that area, the costs go up. There's still a lot of work and a lot of research that we need to do, but that's our intentions. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 74-16(4):  
PUBLIC SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN  
AS IT RELATES TO THE  
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Human Resources. I would like to thank the Minister for his statement about the NWT Public Service Strategic Plan and I would like to follow up with a couple of questions.

I note that the Minister talked about goal two under this plan: Engage: Magnetic Attraction. I'd like to know what's in this particular plan relative to an evaluation of the GNWT's Affirmative Action Policy, specifically in light of the priority lists as outlined not in the Affirmative Action Policy but in our Human Resource Manual. We have two lists, one for non-management jobs and one for management jobs, and they're not the same. I'd like to know from the Minister what kind of an evaluation of the AA Policy is being contemplated specifically in terms of priority lists. Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have our Aboriginal Affirmative Action Committee that is helping us in reviewing the affirmative action plan and certainly we are also reviewing it with regard to the other categories that are provided for under that plan. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I'm not quite sure; the Minister said an affirmative action plan. I don't know if he meant plan or policy, but if there is a review going on, how encompassing is this review, what are the terms of reference of this review and when might we expect it? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We are having the committee work with each of the regions and we are expecting that they will come forward with some recommendations in approximately six months or so.

**MS. BISARO:** Six months? I guess that's great. I'm still not sure whether or not that encompasses looking at the priority lists in the resource manual, but I'll leave it at that.

In the Minister's statement, he referenced persons with disabilities at one point. I know that a working group was established in June of 2008 to deal with persons with disabilities to try to make things a little easier for them and to further their employment. I'd like to ask the Minister what work that working group did some 16, 18 months ago and how is that relevant to the review that he was referencing that will be done in six months' time. Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We've been doing a number of things. First of all, we've looked at different jurisdictions that have been doing some groundbreaking work in this area. We invited the Yukon to come and describe what process they took to work in increasing the representation of people with disabilities in the workforce. We had a workshop. We have had our committees working together. We have put in place sensitivity training for senior managers. So we are looking at the process of establishing an area that would focus entirely on increasing the representation of disabled people in the workforce. As we speak, we are hiring more people. But as the Member knows, it's a question of people self-identifying themselves and you can only self-identify yourself once. So right now we're starting to see an increase and we're continuing to do work in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could do a Member's statement to the Minister's reference to self-identification, so I guess I don't have time for that right now.

I'd like to know from the Minister, though, I don't think I heard in any of his answers that there will be any valuation of the priority list, that there will be a look at those two priority lists to, one, bring them together so that they actually match and people are listed in the same priority for each of them and to possibly change the priorities of various people within the Affirmative Action Policy. Is that possible? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We are looking at the priority lists, because affirmative action covers a number of different areas which deem to be priorities in the hiring of this government. Certainly it includes not only affirmative action employees, but also women in the workforce, all hard-to-hire areas and people with disabilities, and they're broken up into different categories and we are looking at it to see if there are ways to make it more effective in our hiring practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 75-16(4):  
NEED FOR RENOVATIONS IN J.H. SISSONS/  
YK AURORA CAMPUS EDUCATIONAL  
FACILITIES

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. Earlier today, during my Member's statement, I mentioned the declining enrolments in Yellowknife. I was wondering if the Minister could please outline for us the enrolment levels for all of the Yellowknife schools for 2008-2009 school year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Specifically for Yellowknife district, first of all, J.H. Sissons is at 57 percent utilization; Mildred Hall is at 56 percent; N.J. Macpherson is at 57 percent; Range Lake North is at 68 percent; Sir John Franklin is at 98 percent; William MacDonald is at 43 percent, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

Mr. Speaker, I forgot a couple more schools. Ecole St. Joe's is at 80 percent; St. Pat's, 111 percent; and Weledah at 82 percent. Mahsi.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you. Those are the 2008-2009 numbers, I believe. Are the numbers fairly consistent for the 2009-10 fiscal year and do we have some sort of projections on where enrolments are going to be going over the next, say, four or five years? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. With the projection of the enrolments, as the Member alluded to earlier, the enrolments are going down and we do have our department working on a five-year plan. Not only that, but we do have a consultant that's working on the 10-year education facility plan for Yellowknife, all schools. So those are areas that we're very concerned about, the enrolment and how we can deal with those issues and come out with solutions. So those are the areas of focus that we have with our department.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thanks to the Minister for that response. The Minister made reference to a 10-year plan. I'm wondering if the Minister could go into a bit more detail about what the intent of that review and that plan is for us.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This particular piece of work will deal with enrolment, the data that will be collected the past years and also on a going forward basis, the past four years and also future direction for space planning. So those are the areas that will be focused with the group. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final supplementary, Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks once again to the Minister for that. I was wondering if the Minister could please tell us, when he refers to group, who does he mean, who is in that group, and if he could give us a bit of a timeline as to when we might see some results from that review come forward to this Legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** When I refer to group, it's the team that's in my department with the school boards that we're working with, because we have to gather information and data from them and the consultant that collects all the information. So that is the team that we're working with, and that information we're hoping to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 76-16(4):  
LOCAL HOUSING SUBSIDY PROGRAM

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I was talking about the housing situation that we're having up in my riding in Nunakput. In addition to all Regular MLAs passing a motion urging the government to review its current conditions, because clearly it's not working, will this government participate in an intergovernmental regional discussion to review all concerns identified in the petition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The review is being done as we speak and we're looking to see the results of this review. Of course, we are listening to the concerns of all the people out there with some of the issues they're having with the transfer responsibilities. So the review is done. Once we see the review, we'll have a look at it and plan a course of action from there. Thank you.

**MR. JACOBSON:** That's almost as quick as Jane getting responses from the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, given that local governments know their communities and issues best, the best ways to administer programs, making sure that we consider given the housing conditions and the program implementation, especially for small remote communities has been in a crisis situation for quite some time given the recent changes, I'm just making sure that the Minister and his departments, in the smaller communities, they actually go to the communities and meet with the government and local leadership. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I'd be more than pleased and I do intend on visiting some of the smaller communities to hear a lot of their housing concerns and some of the challenges that they've been faced with, with the implementation of the assessment being moved over to ECE. But it is my intent in the next little while here, to meet with a lot of the smaller communities. Having worked in a smaller community in housing for 23 years, I'm well aware of some of the challenges that they face. Thank you.

**MR. JACOBSON:** I'd like to invite the Minister to my riding of Nunakput, once he is planning to go there to do a community tour. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. I'd be pleased to join the Member and other Members from smaller communities in touring some of their operations and getting a feel for how the Housing Corp is running in their community and what best we can do to improve the services we provide to the clients. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 77-16(4):  
GREENHOUSE GAS STRATEGY  
AND SUGGESTED TARGETS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my statement earlier today where I was recognizing people working hard on the issue of climate change. I know they appreciated the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources and my colleague for Great Slave participating in the Climate Justice march this Saturday, but the public is wondering what is this government's position on climate change and the need for greenhouse gas reductions, recognizing it in context with the science that tells us we need at least 25 percent reductions by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Michael Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government and this Legislature

recognize climate change as one of the most important issues facing us. It has an impact on everything we're trying to do as a government almost everywhere we look, whether it be with wildlife, with our communities, with transportation, with permafrost issues. Not only are we committed to reducing greenhouse gases, we are, in fact, spending tens of millions of dollars to put in infrastructure to actually reduce our greenhouse gases, as we speak, with biomass. We're going to invest in wind, we're going to invest in mini-hydro and all those different areas. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you for those comments. I'm sure that this government recognizes that our current Greenhouse Gas Strategy is out of date and needs a tune-up, and I think we're acting within that context. I'd like to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, are we urging the federal government to meet these science-based targets that have been so well demonstrated? Mahsi.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We're taking the approach of making sure in our own area and our own bailiwick that we are being as responsive and responsible as possible to try to deal with this issue, investing, as I indicated, the money that we are, trying to change how we do business, how we're delivering hydro and energy, generating energy. We have had discussions with the federal government. We've indicated what we're doing, as opposed to what they're doing. The federal government will be, at the end of the day as they want to do, making up their own mind. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Unfortunately it is clear, and I do believe in the power of example, as the Minister obviously does, but it is clear that it's not working with this federal government, it hasn't worked to date and we are running out of time. I think that's well acknowledged now. So I'm wondering what role -- assuming that this government is participating in the negotiations in Copenhagen, and I'm sure we are -- can this government plan to try and move forward this science-based target adoption by Canada as our citizens are demanding during those negotiations. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We will continue to, we think, be the voice of reason, speak to the examples, point to the urgency in the Arctic, not only in the Northwest Territories but in all the circumpolar countries and, like many of our circumpolar neighbours, we will be making the case that we are paying the biggest price, we're feeling the most and greatest impact and that we have to take the steps necessary. We will continue to state those points of view. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that's done in the strongest possible terms in recognition, again, of the efforts that our citizens

are taking on and the actions across the North and, really, across Canada. I'm wondering, just to be complete here and comprehensive, what options does the Minister see having for our public, our concerned citizens, to try and influence Canada's position at the negotiations in Copenhagen. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I believe, looking at the press and having been travelling around, most of the options are being exercised that are available to people. What we have is two different perspectives on an issue, and that is the challenge, and the government-of-the-day, the federal government, is going to make its determination of what it sees in the country's best interest in balancing all these factors.

While there's many that may not agree, that's going to be the responsibility that they have. For those of us that want them to do more, we will have to continue to press them and we have to acknowledge, I think, that there has been a shift from the time that the federal government first got elected to where they are today, where even they now recognize that there is growing urgency in this area. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 78-16(4):

ACTIONS TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESS AND REDUCE HIGH COST OF LIVING IN THE SAHTU

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the high cost of living in the Sahtu on various fronts here. I want to ask the Minister of ITI, when businesses in the Sahtu try to recover some of the costs because of the high cost of heating and power and these costs are also recovered through customers. I want to ask the Minister what his department is doing in terms of helping the businesses to reduce the cost of goods and services to make it affordable in small communities.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year we announced the number of actions that ITI was taking to help small business, specifically with BDIC, those of our clients that are best clients that we are making reduced loans available to them. We also are helping with working capital for those companies that would be ordering for goods that they would be selling. We've made arrangements for some effective rates for them to take advantage of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for some of the highlights of what his department is doing. I am also asking about some of the other

businesses such as the Northern Store, the Co-op or some of the other industries that have goods and services, because of the high cost of running their stores on these diesel power plants in my region, where the costs are fairly high in terms of being in the region. Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Minister if there is anything his department is doing to reduce the costs in these communities.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I am pleased to announce that my colleague the Minister of Environment and myself have had the opportunity to meet with some of the businesses that operate on a territorial-wide basis, particularly of how we could use commercial subsidies that have been identified to help reduce the cost of goods for businesses that are operating not only in the Sahtu, but throughout the North. So this is an area that we are still working on, and certainly most of the businesses were very eager to work with us and to find ways to not only to reduce costs of the products they sold, but to make their businesses much more energy efficient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I want to zero in on the comment that the Minister made in terms of the commercial subsidies for these small businesses. Can the Minister inform the House as to what type of...When would this type of discussion come to the floor in terms of looking at our commercial subsidies? I know the program is in place and I know there is some controversy as to the effectiveness of this commercial subsidy program. Can the Minister tell me and the House here what type of discussion can come to the floor in terms of the commercial subsidies program?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As the Member knows, we have an electricity review underway and as part of the terms of reference, this is one of the areas the review team will be looking at and this is what we will be reviewing when we get the recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to reviewing the recommendations with the rest of the Members of this House here and Cabinet colleagues. Can the Minister tell us as to when these recommendations can come to the knowledge of the public in terms of this review of this specific issue on reducing the cost of living in our small communities?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As we indicated earlier at the start of this process, we are working very closely with all Members of this House. We will come forward when we have had full opportunity to receive the recommendations and review them fully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 79-16(4):  
TERRITORIAL ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to my Member's statement regarding the decision to formulate a committee, the Territorial Admissions Committee, to oversee the administration and processes of individuals to long-term care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have to have a fair and equitable system in regards to accessibility of programs and services with regard to persons who need it. We also have to be aware that there are cultural and social needs, individual needs, with regard to the regions they come from and based on their diets, traditional foods and whatnot. By this decision being made at the Yellowknife level, we have to also ensure that the communities such as Aklavik, with regard to the Joe Greenland Centre, is also given a fair share of infrastructure dollars to ensure facilities are up to par and, more importantly, that they are functional and able to ensure the care of patients in our communities and not all in Yellowknife Centre with the new Dementia Centre.

So I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services what kind of assurances can she give to employees of the Joe Greenland Centre and the patients who are presently in the Joe Greenland Centre, that ongoing care will be there and also that they will not see any change in services and that, if anything, we will see an improvement in programs and services. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Territorial Admissions Committee's objective is to make access to our existing long-term care units across the NWT fair and equitable, and we project to do that by having a standardized assessment process whereby all of the applicants and residents in need of a long-term care facility will be considered equally and fairly, so that not one region is banished in any way.

I would like to assure the Member that this will not in any way impact the creation of new facilities, because that's a completely different capital process. This has to do with how we maximize the use of existing long-term care units across the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. KRUTKO:** My concern is with the opening of the new Dementia Centre here in Yellowknife where a lot of patients will receive that special care,

but, more importantly, they are presently in the territorial hospital system with regard to care facilities in Inuvik, Fort Smith, here in Yellowknife and, more importantly, to ensure that those people who need the service for dementia are given the service, but we move the people in there that need that 24-hour care and specialized care in that particular area. But by moving these people, we don't see a decrease in regard to programs and services in the other care facilities such as the Joe Greenland Centre. So my concern is more in regards to the new facility coming on stream and also the individuals being moved to that facility, that it does not affect the operations and maintenance of those other facilities. That is where I am going with my question. Has that been looked at with regard to the transition that is going to take place of moving these patients into the new Dementia Centre?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I understand the Member's concern and I want to assure the Member that our plan is not to move residents from regional centres in smaller communities and move them into Yellowknife into the Territorial Dementia Centre, thereby decreasing the use of these long-term care facilities in communities like Aklavik. Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Member that the Territorial Dementia Centre, not only that, but, say, the assisted living campus in Hay River, is specialized, very high-level care facilities that are in desperate need. We have residents with severe dementia that are at the hospital right now or are not being taken care of adequately in the way we want to. So we are building this 28-bed facility for use by all of the residents of the Territories, but it's not meant to bring people in from smaller communities unless they absolutely need this service. When those applicants do apply, we wanted to have a standardized process that's fair and equitable for all applicants for all of the Territories.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I was praising the establishment of the Dementia Centre, so the people who do have dementia in our hospitals will now have a space which is specialized care for dementia patients, so we can move them out of the hospital into this facility. That was my understanding. So from what the Minister is saying, it sounds like no one is going to move from the regions into this facility with dementia, they are going to keep them in the hospitals in the region. So I would just like to get a clarification from the Minister. Is the intention of the Department of Health and Social Services to keep this Yellowknife facility as a Yellowknife facility or is it a territorial facility?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** There are two things being done with respect to long-term care facilities. We know that facilities in Aklavik and some other communities are very old. They need to be renovated. There are some communities without

long-term care facilities. So we are doing a planning study for a long-term care facility. We are looking at a generic design, because we understand this designing and planning study and master plan takes so long to develop. We want to establish a generic long-term care facility for small communities so that as we find the money, we can build them without having to do the whole process over.

With respect to the Dementia Centre, that is a highly specialized dementia care facility that only the residents who need that level of care will be admitted to from all across the Territories. But I want to assure the Member, there are beds in Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Simpson and Inuvik where people with dementia will still be able to live and function. So this Territorial Dementia Centre is designed for the most acute case and we want to make sure that it remains a territorial facility and that all residents, elders and residents, will have access to it fairly and equitably. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request of the Minister if she could pass on the message to the residents of the Joe Greenland Centre and, more importantly, the staff of this transitional period, what the process is and, more importantly, the residents, patients and families that this process is out there. Get the message out and get those people aware that this change has taken place and make sure it's open and transparent so everybody can take advantage of it. Mahsi.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Yes, I will commit to the Member that I will work with the Member to do that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to item 7 on the Order Paper, oral questions. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

## Oral Questions (Reversion)

### QUESTION 80-16(4): NEED FOR REGULATIONS GOVERNING ABANDONED GAS STATIONS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use this occasion to do a quick follow-up to both a statement and some oral questions I had for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Some time ago I was asking the Minister about an issue, which is abandoned gas stations here in Yellowknife and certainly throughout the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the issue really comes down to this: that gas stations, for whatever reason they are closed, are left as public eyesores and certainly the potential for an environmental mess being there is quite high. So, Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources is: when there is no intent to reopen these abandoned gas stations -- if I may describe them that way -- would he look at creating regulations or rules around this to have to come up with an environmental remediation plan to ensure that they don't turn into toxic sites? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have been looking at this issue and recognize the policy and legislative framework has some gaps in it. It's not as strong as it could be, so we are going to be looking at how we bring forward regulations that will allow us to close those loopholes and make a tighter framework. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, may I say I certainly appreciate the answer from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, when can we expect some type of adoption of regulations or plans to recognize this particular problem? I certainly see it as an issue that we don't need to wait for a contaminated site to cause problems and set off alarms. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to hear from the Minister his opinion and, certainly, objective of the department as to when they hopefully will have this plan in place to update the regulations. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We assembled an interdepartmental working group to look at this. We hope that by later this year we will be able to come forward with a plan for next steps. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, since raising this issue some time ago, I have had a number of people express certain support for this type of issue. Again, they see two things, the land and gas station looks like an eyesore. The second issue



was highlighted earlier today, is the fact that the potential for an environmental risk is certainly there.

Mr. Speaker, hopefully this will be the final question on this issue, because I think the Minister is certainly addressing it. Is the Minister open to public opinion on this? Is there a possibility of raising awareness, of looking for some ideas on how to fairly address this problem going forward throughout the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 81-16(4):  
H1N1 VACCINE

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on my colleague Mr. Ramsay's questions about the H1N1 vaccination. Today, before lunch, Minister Lee had approached me and asked if I would join in an immunization of some people who are recognizable, I suppose, in the community, going down to get the H1N1. I very seriously considered it. I rethought it. Interestingly, right after lunch, I got forwarded an e-mail that had gone out to the employees of a fairly large company here in the North, warning employees that if they had egg allergies they should not be getting this. Coincidentally, I have been diagnosed with an egg allergy in the last six months. I would have gone with Ms. Lee.

My question is this: there are a lot of people who are sensitive and allergic to egg. When Ms. Lee indicates that people going for the vaccination can ask questions, I want to know what do the people administering the vaccination ask those people. If I had gone there at one o'clock today, would they have asked me if I had an egg allergy? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for the question, because that is very helpful. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that -- and the process will be the same all across the Territories -- when a resident goes to get their flu vaccine, they will be interviewed. They won't be given a shot right away. They have to identify themselves with their names, to make sure that they have a health card. They will be asked if they are allergic to eggs and if they have any other underlying conditions, and then the resident will be given an opportunity to ask questions. Then, if they are comfortable with that, they will be moved to the next table where they will be given a vaccine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** In the press release that was put out by the government, it does say that those who plan to line up for the vaccine should not be in a hurry. Health officials say flu clinic staffers will ask people if they have any risk factors such as chronic illness or pregnancy. So it doesn't actually specifically in this communique speak to the issue of egg allergy, so I hope that even this discussion here on the floor of the House today will raise people's awareness about that potential issue and, perhaps in the future, communications on this, because it is such a common thing, this could be included in it. As I said, most of the communication between Mr. Ramsay and Ms. Lee centred on the ability of people to ask questions, but I am very thankful and glad to hear the Minister say that that is a specific question which would be asked of those who are seeking the immunization. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** The previous question from the Member for Kam Lake dealt with the ingredients. I think there is so much information about this vaccine, I think it is helpful for us to get questions in the House. I do my best to answer them, but there is a flu line and public health officials in our Territories are doing their best job to answer us. I just want to get the message out. When a resident goes to the flu clinic, and I would invite them to go there -- I think Hay River is having a flu fair on Thursday -- even if they are not sure if they want to do that or not, the computer screen is standardized, it has a series of questions that they will be asked. At the same time, they could have their questions answered and when the public is comfortable, then they could move on to getting their vaccination. I realize we can't have all the information out there, but I think that is a fairly regular process. The reason why they asked if somebody is pregnant or not is because a different vaccine can be given to someone who is pregnant. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 82-16(4):  
PROTECTION OF THE CANOL HERITAGE TRAIL

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of ITI in regards to the proposed CANOL Heritage Trail Doi T'oh Park. Mr. Speaker, I tabled some pictures of an expedition that happened this past summer in terms of land rovers from B.C. going way into the proposed park heritage trail. I want to ask the Minister of ITI in terms of his ability to work with the Minister of Transportation or ENR in terms of how do we prevent these types of land rovers from coming into some very sensitive ecological areas in the Mackenzie Mountains in terms of having these land rovers not coming into the Mackenzie Mountains anymore.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand my colleague and the Minister of ENR have agreed to work very closely with people of the community to make sure that we try to reduce this activity as much as possible. When I was in Whitehorse and had the opportunity to meet with my counterpart from the Yukon government, I asked him what, if anything, were they doing to monitor the people coming into the Northwest Territories through the Yukon with ATVs and so on. He has indicated that, as far as they were concerned, it was a public highway and the public is free to enter into the Northwest Territories. I think this is something that we tried to address through the Wildlife Act and so on, but we will be prepared to work with the Sahtu governments to try to reduce this activity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, the issue of the land rovers coming in from B.C., these six land rovers that came very close to some very sensitive areas in the Sahtu along the Heritage Trail. These vehicles tear up the muskeg road. I want to ask the Minister in terms of him working with the Minister of Transportation in terms of some restrictions on this piece of road here. As you know, Mactung Mine, close to the border, has filed for some application to start up their project here. It will become very busy. The Yukon government has put thousands of dollars into upgrading the North CANOL Road. I want to ask the Minister of ITI if he would be working closely with the Minister of Transportation to restrict the use of vehicles like the land rovers in the Northwest Territories on the CANOL Trail.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As the Member knows, the whole trail is under the auspices of the federal government. It is federal land. It is under their control, but, nevertheless, we as a government will be spending funds to put up proper signage to make sure that all members of the public that enter into this area are aware of who owns the land. Also, I understand, the first 18 kilometres is Sahtu lands that have been selected by the Sahtu governments. We are also holding meetings with the Sahtu beneficiaries. We will be holding workshops to make sure everybody understands the importance of protecting the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister consider adding some monitoring stations at the border here in terms of monitoring the use of vehicles on the proposed CANOL Heritage Trail?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We do work with ENR and we do have a checkpoint there during the summer months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister consider having a working partnership with the Sahtu people so that if these land rovers ever do decide to come back to the Northwest Territories, they would be stopped there and not to go any further on this CANOL Heritage Trail?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** The Member is getting into the areas of enforcement. Certainly we have to make sure that we are well within our authority to do that. As I said, the land in question is currently under the ownership of the federal government and the Sahtu aboriginal governments. This is something that we would probably have to make sure that we are well within our authority to do if we were to intercede with anybody who was enjoying their normal public use of the lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 83-16(4):  
AMENDING MEDICAL TRAVEL POLICY  
TO INCLUDE VEHICLE RENTAL

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Sandy Lee. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on my question that I was trying to ask last week, which was in regards to medical travel. Mr. Speaker, the issue at hand is, quite simply, this: in many cases, it is actually cheaper to rent a car than it is to be reimbursed for taxi fares in that particular case. Recognizing that sometimes that type of flexibility helps the patient, but it also helps the bottom line of the territorial government, because it is considered relatively reasonable and these rates are relatively well established.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services is: would she be willing to amend the Medical Travel Policy that recognizes the ability to rent a car as a particular option rather than just having to seek reimbursement through taxi fares? Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for giving me an opportunity to answer that again. I just want to advise the Member that the department has been reviewing this. There are a couple of complexities, but we are looking to see how this can be possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Minister today if she could express to me, or certainly this House, what are the complexities and what exactly are they reviewing that is holding

up this possibility of an option, whereas renting a car can be seen as a reimbursable expense on medical travel. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** There are at least three things, Mr. Speaker, we are looking at. One is the liability issue. The second one is the fact that our NWT resident act says medical travel by many different ways. Some of them are covered by third-party insurance, like government employees. They are covered by a third party. NIHB receives the benefit in a different way than we have extended health benefits that go to seniors and those who make under \$80,000. Those who make over \$80,000 have different programs. It is often the case, whenever you look at these health issues, there are a lot more wrinkles to it. The third thing is, Mr. Speaker, it is true right now under this economy, some rental fees are cheaper than taking cabs, but that depends on the distance and size of the vehicle and everything else that is involved. Those are the things that, Mr. Speaker, we are looking at. We are looking at that. I should be able to give the Member a more definitive answer shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister really hit one of the areas that I am concerned about that is holding up this potential policy change. It is the liability issue, because I have done a fair bit of research on this issue. From the perspective that I have taken, as long as the GNWT is not renting the vehicle specifically, and certainly as long as the GNWT doesn't put their name on the rental agreement, I am trying to understand what, from the Minister's perspective, is left as a liability. From the research I have done, the government is not liable if it comes down to the person on the medical travel putting their name on as the person renting the vehicle, not the territorial government. Could the Minister clarify as to what she sees is the basis of this liability? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** It may be that that may the way it turns out, but we do need to look into it more, Mr. Speaker, because government sometimes gets to be found in a more onerous and responsible position than would a private person. If it is found that our government does fund for renting vehicles, there might be extended liability to the government, and also we understand that government faces liabilities in all kinds of things and we have waited to protect that by insuring it and it is not certain that we could cover that insurance to those who are renting vehicles for their use, but that they will be asking us for reimbursement. So there might be some element of extending the liability from the government to the private individual. It may not be the case, but we have to look into that further and that's what we are doing. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can see a lot of thought is going into this problem and that's certainly the direction of a solution in my vision that, you know, it does require a lot of thought. Mr. Speaker, what I'm talking about is that if somebody's approved to go on medical travel, if that option is the one that they wish to pursue, which is rent a vehicle on their own, you know, it's built around a flat fee that, therefore, they can't seek reimbursement for anything else other than what they've done. Certainly, a waiver whereas in they acknowledge that they have to be the renter, because the issue is...I'm trying to understand; has the department done any work in comparison that puts the government in a more liable position if they're seeking reimbursement from the taxi cab versus a car rental? From my point of view, it isn't. It's the exact same expense at the end of the day. Mr. Speaker, has the department compared the liability issue when someone rents a cab? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** As I indicated, liability is just one of the issues. For example, the Member just indicated we could just institute a flat fee. Well, even doing that we need to set out what is a flat fee, what is a reasonable rental fee, what vehicle are you allowed to rent.

I know that the constituent that the MLA is trying to assist, that particular assistant needs a wheelchair. So then what is the standardized flat fee for that rental vehicle? The additional issue is the fact that most of our residents may not be able to use this new provision if it was changed. What I want to say is that under NIHB and under third-party insurance and other insurance regimes right now, rental vehicles are not allowed and those are not areas that we could change. So if we were to change a little bit for a very, very small group of people and build up a whole infrastructure but it won't really benefit others, that's another thing. It's hard to explain, but that's one thing that we need to look into too. So we have a lot of work to do before we could say I will get back to the Member whether this is something that we could do right now and whether there is a benefit in that if we're dealing with maybe up to five people who could possibly benefit. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 84-16(4):  
STUDENT HOME BOARDING POLICY

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think it was two weeks ago I brought up an issue with the Minister Education, Culture and Employment in this House with regard to trying to get some resolution about guidelines for a young student from Trout Lake. I just want to inform the Minister, as well, that I was just informed today that

the young student had to quit school. So I think that we failed this student. This student was a resident of the Northwest Territories and is a band member of the Trout Lake band. So I would just like to ask the Minister, how can we prevent a situation like this in the future? Because we stand up here, we espouse of how much we'll bend over backwards for our students and our residents and yet we fail this young lady in this situation. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that the student had to drop out of school. Certainly our view is to have success in all students. There are certain protocols that we need to follow. One of the protocols is to work closely with district education authorities and divisional education councils as well. They're the ones that have policies in place. If a student from the community wants to take on with home boarding, they're the ones who made those decisions at the community level, because they're experts at the community level. We work closely with them, as well, so we will continue to support those DEAs and DEC's with the policies that they have and if there needs to be some changes, then, certainly, we are willing to work with that as well.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Absolutely, there are going to have to be some changes made. I think when I brought it up a couple weeks ago I was trying to make the case that we are responsible for aboriginal education here in the Northwest Territories, and it's got to be the same, like a hunting right. Aboriginals can hunt anywhere and I believe that same right should extend to education, if anything else, and that's the kind of flexibility that I was asking the Minister at that time, because even though the parents had left, the young lady was still here for about 11 months. I don't know if there was a one-year guideline or whatever has to happen there. Maybe the Minister can inform me exactly what guideline or what rule was used for our government and our education system to not support her. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I think the education council was quite open to have this student attend their school. It was just a matter of a home boarding issue.

As a parent, we're also responsible for our kids. Like, if I send my kid to another community, I feel responsible to support my kid through the transition. I think parents also need to play a part with this. I realize that parents are working out of town, but they need to make prior arrangements, prior arrangements before the school started, because they knew that policies were in place, they needed to work with the superintendent, the education

board. If there were issues, then they should have dealt with it before the school started.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we follow those terms. Our education is one of the best educations, the program that we offer. There is no denial to the student to access school. The school is still there. It's just the home boarding aspect. We have to keep in mind that there's a difference there. The education facility is still there and we very much support that as well. Mahsi.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Absolutely, the Minister is correct; we do have a very good education system and that's exactly why this young lady wanted to continue the education in Fort Simpson. But then again, the rule was so inflexible. The parents left, not the student, Mr. Speaker. In fact, she was left here under the guardianship of her auntie. At the same time, education also means the provision of services to have that education, especially for people from small and remote communities such as was in this case. I would like to ask the Minister again: what exact rule was it? Was it a rule because her parents didn't live here or was there a firm rule that there is a residency requirement for the student? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, this is the Dehcho Divisional Education Council policy, the residence program that they have. There are certain criteria that they follow and that the parents would have to be residing in the district. So that's the policy that they fall under and we continue to support those policies that are in place. Then again, if there needs to be some discussion on potential changes, then the MLA can certainly, myself as well can, sit down with the district education authority or the council on how it could be changed. But the final decision lies with the board. Mahsi.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Minister, as the guardian of our education here in the Northwest Territories, I believe that he should take the lead role in trying to talk with our DEAs, DEC's, and find some flexibility around these guidelines, because we should not be failing our students, Mr. Speaker. So I would like the Minister to commit to talk with the DEAs and DEC's to see if there is a way that we can prevent this in the future, because I certainly would not like to see this happen again. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We, too, don't want to see this happening again in the future, but we must keep in mind that there are certain protocols and policies in place that we must follow as well. We must prepare our students to be successful in the schools. Again, parents' responsibility, educators and also elected politicians, we do our part, and the department as well. So we'll continue to make that happen. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 85-16(4):  
H1N1 VACCINE

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask a few more questions about H1N1. I guess, as a parent now, I've got two small children and I worry. I mean, I worry for a living. I'm worried about them every day, every minute of every day. I'd like to ask the Minister what clinical experience exists currently with the Arepanrix H1N1 vaccine. What clinical experience is there out there as it pertains to children? Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that all parents do worry, and that it is important that residents out there, especially with young children, get the information.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to inform the Member that since this vaccine was manufactured, clinical studies were done on young children in a number of settings including international clinical trials, and the results have shown, and it has satisfied all of the experts in the Public Health Agency of Canada, that the results are safe.

The second thing is, prior to this vaccine being made, there were some who knew about impending or possible H1N1 breakout, and all of the testing that was done with respect to the production of it, the ingredients, the quality of the ingredients, the manufacturing process, those clinical trials were done on humans as well as animals.

I'm not a scientist. I'm not medically trained. I think it would be inappropriate for us to talk in medical language, but I think it's very appropriate for us to have questions answered about what are the experts saying. Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member and the residents out there that this has gone through and passed the rigorous Canadian vaccination testing process that is required.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, I asked specifically about the Arepanrix H1N1 vaccine. Again, this is very confusing for people, confusing for me, confusing for the general public, because if you go to the product information leaflet on Arepanrix H1N1 right off of the Health Canada website, it says right here in healthy adults, aged 18 to 60 years and no -- I repeat no -- clinical experience yet in elderly, in children or in adolescents. What they did is use a different testing model on children and adolescents and the elderly. They didn't use this. This vaccine has not, to my knowledge off the Health Canada website, been clinically tested in those areas. I'd like to ask the Minister: we're

administering a vaccine that has no clinical experience, Mr. Speaker, is that true? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** That is not true. In fact, even on Cross-Country Canada Checkup where there was an expert being interviewed for two hours, he made it clear that this is an evolving process. He said even 24 hours ago he could not say the relationship between flu vaccine and this new vaccine, the interaction, in a way that he could now. Things are changing. But I can assure the Member -- and I don't know exactly what he's looking at in the Public Health Agency of Canada -- information is changing and the latest information, I can assure the Member because I was there when Dr. Butler-Jones and Dr. Kami Kandola were reviewing the facts as they were coming about, and the clinical trials have been done on children, and they have found that they don't need two shots for children, which they thought was originally required. They have found that one shot is enough. From my understanding, from a layperson's point of view, less of this vaccine has proven to be effective and it has even proven to be that even for younger children it's safe for them to use.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really important for the residents to know that all vaccines in Canada go through a rigorous testing process. This has been done. This has been done on people and children and it has been found to be safe. There is always a risk and benefit analysis being done. There's always risk in any medication that you take, but as much as the Public Health Agency of Canada can tell us, they have done the testing. I think Members should know that information does change and the Public Health Agency is trying to get as updated information as possible. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you. Again, right off the product information leaflet, under elderly, it says no clinical data are available for Arepanrix H1N1 in this age group. Also, children aged from six months to 35 months, no clinical data available for influenza vaccines with ASO3 in this age group. So, Mr. Speaker, those are what is confusing to me and confusing to people.

I know I don't have much time here, so I'd like to ask the Minister another question. In their H1N1 Slow the Spread information pamphlet that they have, they say the adjuvant in Canada's H1N1 vaccine is made up of natural ingredients such as water, oil and vitamin E, which, yes, that's in there. But, Mr. Speaker, there's also something in there call Thimerosal, which contains mercury. Now that's not in the information, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I think we just have to be upfront with people about what's in the vaccine and how it's been tested, because according to the information, like I said, right off of Health Canada's website, this vaccine has not been clinically tested in its form that we're administering it in. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you. It is actually untrue for the Member to say it hasn't been tested. Now, it has been tested. Mr. Speaker, I'm asking people to go with the advice of Dr. Butler-Jones who was here on Friday and said that based on the clinical trials, that he is satisfied, that he will recommend this to the people of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I think the H1N1 pamphlet that the Member is referring to was written quite a few weeks ago and it is true there is a little bit of adjuvant in this vaccine and it is there to boost the effectiveness of the vaccine, but I think that we should be careful that when we talk about what's in it, you've got to think of all the doses, too, and how these interact. I think that only medically trained staff can answer that and if the Member wants me to look at any of the facts that he's getting from the Public Health Agency, the website -- because I cannot verify what he has in front of him -- I'd be happy to take everything he has and have the doctors look at it and get back to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be happy to share this information, this product information leaflet on Arepanrix with the Minister so that she can see what I'm talking about.

Again, my concern, Mr. Speaker, is there shouldn't be any confusion out there publicly. People have to have this information. I'd like to see this summarized for people before they get a shot so they can see what has actually been done with that vaccine. Again, this is a question I asked earlier, but will the Minister look at providing people who are going to get the flu shot with a list of all the ingredients that's in the vaccine and also the information relative to the clinical testing that hasn't been done in the children and hasn't been done in the elderly according to this information I have, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** The Public Health Agency of Canada has a website also about vaccine myths and it answers questions about that the vaccines don't work, that there are many serious side effects from vaccines, that because the H1N1 flu vaccine is new it is untested and unsafe, myths that taking the regular flu shot could mean a risk of becoming very ill with H1N1, that another myth is the influenza vaccine can give you influenza, another myth is getting an influenza every year overwhelms and weakens the immune system and there is an answer to the question about the fact that the influenza vaccine contains Thimerosal, which is also known as mercury, which is harmful especially for young children, and that is found not to be the case. I would like to invite the residents to go to that. Another myth is that pregnant women should not get the influenza vaccine and the number nine

myth is my child got the influenza vaccine last year so there's no need to give it again.

So, Mr. Speaker, all of the Ministers across the country and all of the public health officers across the country are aware that there is a lot of misinformation going on and we need to make sure that we get the information out rather than half information. I think the ingredients are not the most important thing always, it's how much is in it, because I understand on any given day all around us there's mercury, but the dose that is in the vaccine is very, very low and it's found not to be harmful. I need to disagree with the Member, because I keep telling the Member that this has been tested. I'm telling him it has been tested on people. So I'd like to make sure that the people know that I have information and we have information that comes out from clinical trials on people that says this vaccine is safe.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### QUESTION 86-16(4):

#### PROTECTION OF THE CANOL HERITAGE TRAIL

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to continue my questions to the Minister of ITI. Mr. Speaker, I've recently received some information that the Mactung, the tungsten mine at the border of the proposed CANOL Park, is going to go into some environmental hearings in terms of starting up the tungsten mine. This tungsten mine is one of the world's largest tungsten deposits in the world and this is the start of the CANOL Heritage Trail. I want to ask the Minister what is his department doing to ensure that this piece of property, this part of the CANOL Heritage Trail or CANOL Park is protected in terms of the wishes of the Sahtu people.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had the opportunity to visit the Mactung site this summer, along with the Member, and it was quite impressive. As the Member knows, all of the work that is being done on the Mactung site is on the Yukon side of the border. Having said that, I think there are opportunities to access that mine through the Northwest Territories, and we are well aware of the CANOL Park and we're very prepared to work with the Sahtu to help develop that park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** To access the Mactung Mine on the Yukon side, they have to drive from the Yukon into the Northwest Territories to get to the Mactung Mine. I wanted to ask the Minister in terms of the time frame in terms of transferring this piece of jurisdiction over to the territorial government for the

Sahtu and the people of the Northwest Territories to have this park. I'm asking the Minister in terms of the time frame, because the notices have gone out to open up the Mactung Mine here. Can the Minister outline a time frame as to when this transfer will happen to see the new establishment of this park here?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** The main thing that's holding up the establishment of the park is the transfer of lands from the federal government to the territorial government. Those lands are such that a significant amount of work has to be done to clean up some of the environmental issues associated with this park. So we have been working with the Sahtu people and the federal government to clean up some of the areas. So until such time as the land is transferred, it's very difficult for us to make the transfer or the establishment of the park proceed faster. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** That's what I'm afraid of in terms of the Mactung. If they go ahead, if they get the go-ahead to mine their deposit on the Yukon side, they are going to use the Northwest Territories side as a transportation corridor. I'd like to ask the Minister what type of alternative plans does he have in regard to having protection. We know this is a proposed park that was negotiated with the Sahtu Dene and Metis in 1993 and that we want this to happen. We don't want to see any damage to this piece of property here. So we ask the Minister what is he prepared to do to work with the Sahtu to make sure this land is protected before establishment of the park.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We are looking at ways to try to improve some of the existing infrastructure that's there so that the Mactung can use or perhaps see fit to use the road and airport that is there now. I think in order to do that, we need to find a way to upgrade what's being used as an airport. Right now it's just the CANOL Road that was built 40 years ago and they're using that to land on and the road that's being used was built in 1945. So we're very prepared to work with the Sahtu people, because we think there are some economic opportunities there and we think if we improve the airport and the road even a little bit, that it will help develop Mactung as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final and short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, that's why I asked the Minister earlier is he prepared to work in partnership with the Sahtu in terms of monitoring the access of this road and the airport. There's going to be lots of development. Is the Minister again willing to come to the Sahtu, sit down with the Sahtu leaders in terms of how do we limit some restrictions of vehicle usage in that area to protect our land?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We're quite prepared to come into the Sahtu region. What the Member is starting to talk about is petty trespass and we don't have a petty trespass act in the Northwest Territories. So the lands that have been selected by the Sahtu and the federal lands that are out there are something that we're quite prepared to talk to the Sahtu people about, but this is an area where we don't have any legislation as of yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 87-16(4):  
REGULATORY PROCESS RELATED  
TO THE MACTUNG MINE

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Listening to questions by Mr. Yakeleya to the Minister of ITI, I find it pretty amazing this government hasn't done more to protect the interests of the Sahtu people or, more importantly, that that CANOL Park, which was established under their land claim agreement, but, more importantly, protection of the Sahtu interests in the Northwest Territories, which basically we talk about IBAs, we talk about social impact agreements, we talk about benefits to the people in the Northwest Territories. These resources are going to be transferred from the Northwest Territories into the Yukon to be mined or processed in the Yukon. I'd just like to ask the Minister of ITI why is it that there are no agreements with the First Nations people in the Northwest Territories, especially the Sahtu people, in regard to this development on the impact on Sahtu lands in the Northwest Territories, yet the company is talking about transporting that ore from the Northwest Territories and processing it in the Yukon so they can avoid the environmental responsibility they have under the environmental assessment in the Northwest Territories?

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason there is no IBA agreements is the project hasn't advanced to that stage yet. It's still under development and both Mactung and Selwyn are being very careful to make sure that they stay on the Yukon side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. KRUTKO:** The main ore body that they're talking about processing or developing is in the Northwest Territories. Basically, facilities are being developed in the Yukon so they can avoid the environmental process that they have to go through under the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act. So, again, it looks to me like the developer is trying to avoid regulatory responsibility in the Northwest Territories. So I'd like to ask the

Minister again, have you checked to see why it is that this developer out of Vancouver is avoiding the regulatory responsibility it has in the Northwest Territories under federal legislation? Why is it we are allowing that to happen?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Perhaps that question is better directed to the federal government, but we, as I said, Mr. Yakeleya and myself visited the Mactung property. The development is all taken on the Yukon side. They are accessing the mine development site by using a public road that is available to anybody in the general public and, as such, until such time as they have done the feasibility work and until such time as they make application to make it into a fully functioning mine, they are working within the Yukon jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, another one of our major resources is being taken up by a company which is now finding ways, not only shipping diamonds to Antwerp and other places in the world and we end up with nothing. Now we are finding the mine companies that deal with iron ore and heavy metals are finding ways around the Government of the Northwest Territories by simply moving the ore body out of the Northwest Territories, processing it somewhere else so we won't get the economic and social benefit of that process. So I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Energy Mines and Resources to ensure that any mining process, regardless of how small it is, we receive the maximum benefit as Northerners for a resource that is going to leave the Northwest Territories, regardless of whether it's across a border 20 kilometres down the road or basically using a way to get around that responsibility of ensuring that our resources and our wealth are spent in the Northwest Territories. Again, I would like to ask the Minister, can you ensure that any developments that happen in the Northwest Territories, that we are the sole benefactors of any of those developments that take place here in the Northwest Territories regardless of whom?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When those developments happen in the Northwest Territories, we will certainly make sure that the benefits to the people of the Northwest Territories are maximized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, someone who has been involved in the Sahtu claim process knows that the ore body we are talking about has subsurface lands which are owned by the people of the Sahtu. They have ownership at the site that we are talking about around the existing ore body. So I mean it seems like this government is either snuffing us off or not taking us seriously. This is a major deposit with regard to one of the largest

deposits in North America and yet we don't seem to be interested. So I'd like to ask the Minister, can he report back to this House exactly what your department is doing to ensure that development takes place and we, as Northerners, benefit from that? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mining resources are owned by the federal government or else if they are negotiated through a land claim and they have subsidiary rights, as you indicated, then they're owned by the Sahtu government. So as I said, we are prepared to make sure that Northerners benefit from development when they happen in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 88-16(4):  
UPGRADING ROADWAY INTO THE  
CANOL HERITAGE TRAIL

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have listened to the exchange between the MLA for Mackenzie Delta and the Minister of ITI. I wanted to ask the Minister of Transportation in terms of public roads in the north end of the CANOL here, is that under GNWT's jurisdiction in terms of public road maintenance and operations?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a stretch of road from the Yukon border, roughly 14 kilometres that is referred to as the Canol Road. In theory, I guess, the Public Highways Act and Motor Vehicles Act applies to this portion of road. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, that is, in theory, 14 kilometres of road that we have up there. I would encourage the Minister to take a trip up there and look at the conditions of this 14 kilometres of road to see where our priorities are in terms of fixing up our road. I know the Yukon has put thousands of dollars in the Yukon, so that would encourage visitors and encourage some mine companies to come into the Northwest Territories. I would ask the Minister, are there any plans of grading these 14 kilometres of road?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, this section of road is in a very remote portion of the NWT. The use of this stretch of road is very limited. In fact, we don't have any enforcement of this portion of highway. As of yet, we have not had the opportunity to talk about any improvements. Our indications earlier on were that the people of the Sahtu were not completely in support of upgrading this road as they felt it was going to increase traffic



as a result. So we need to have that discussion. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, last month we had six land rovers come up from B.C. Now, no matter what, people are going to start coming in. With notice of Mactung opening up, there is going to be more industry coming up and taking more interest. I would ask the Minister if he would look at types of enforcement or having this jurisdiction of road be improved. I would ask the Minister if he would be willing to look at some type of legislation or policy in terms of having some restrictions on people going to be using this road more in the future. Would the Minister look at types of regulations or legislation in terms of how do we start paying a little more close attention to this piece of road?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, there is currently public highway regulations along this stretch of highway. As I stated earlier, we do not have high volume traffic on this area. We don't currently have any enforcement on this stretch of road. The Member has invited me to take a look at it. I would be pleased to look at this portion of highway at my earliest convenience. However, having said that, land rovers, other vehicles or ATVs would not be prohibited from travelling on a section of road. It is a public piece of highway. If there are vehicles that are going off the highway and especially ATVs travelling off of our public highways, we don't have any regulation that would stop that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I guess when I say in the Sahtu we don't have any roads, actually we do have roads. They were built in 1943 and 1944 from Norman Wells into the Yukon. Now we have only 14 kilometres of that road. I guess I would ask the Minister, if I was to invite him, if he would come and walk with me on these 14 kilometres of road here. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask if the Minister would consider looking at some type of restriction on the use of vehicles. Vehicles are going to be coming more and more into this part of the road. Again, I would ask him if he would commit to looking at some type of restrictive use of vehicles such as land rovers or ATVs. He is well aware of the issues I brought up in the past in regards to the damage that it does to the proposed park.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I had indicated earlier that I would be pleased to talk to the people of the Sahtu as to their desire to see if there is any way to upgrading this road or provide provisions that would allow us to look at what we can do or at least look at the options. This is a 14-kilometre road. I am not sure if I have as much free time as the Member to walk a whole 14 kilometres. I have committed that I would look at the situation. I would be pleased to look at the portion of road that

he is referring to and try to do a visit and maybe at the time when he is walking, we can coordinate our travel.

However, once again, it is a very difficult area to provide enforcement to. It is very remote. There is not a whole lot of traffic that travels this road. We don't have resources that we can dedicate. However, I am assuming there would be opportunity where we can provide spot-checks if that is what is required.

Again, I don't know if we can put in regulations that would stop vehicles such as land rovers to come on this trail. It is a public highway, but we can look at options. I would be pleased to sit down and have that discussion with the Member and people from the Sahtu. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

### Written Questions

#### WRITTEN QUESTION 5-16(4): YELLOWKNIFE SCHOOL AND BOARD OPERATION COSTS

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment:

1. What were the total expenditures for the YK1 School Board during the 2008-09 fiscal year? Specifically, what were the total costs per school and the total costs for board operations?
2. What were the total expenditures for the Yellowknife Catholic School Board during the 2008-09 fiscal year? Specifically, what were the total costs per school and the total costs for board operations?
3. What were the total expenditures for the Commission Scolaire francophone school board during the 2008-09 fiscal year? Specifically, what were the total costs for Ecole Allain St-Cyr and the total cost for board operations?

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

#### WRITTEN QUESTION 6-16(4): TOTAL COST OF ECOLE ALLAIN ST-CYR EXPANSION

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

How much money has the GNWT spent on the court action as it relates to Ecole Allain St-Cyr and the expansion of that school?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 18-16(4):  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 2  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
2009-2010

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 19-16(4):  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 3  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
2009-2010

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 20-16(4):  
PRODUCT INFORMATION LEAFLET

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a product information leaflet, Arepanrix, H1N1, ASO3-Adjuvanted H1N1 pandemic influenza vaccine located on the Health Canada site which was revised October 21, 2009. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

TABLED DOCUMENT 21-16(4):  
N.J. MACPHERSON

TABLED DOCUMENT 22-16(4):  
PACKAGE OF INFORMATION REGARDING  
DISTRACTED DRIVERS  
AND CELL PHONE USAGE

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two sets of documents I would like to table today. The first set is specific to N.J. Macpherson, which is the front page of the website I printed off. It is about voting for playground projects with its website address at nj.yk.nt.ca as well as the funding agency

I printed off the cover of their website which is ABF community fund.

The second set of documents, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quickly table is the first one is a Transport Canada study done. It is Observed Driver Phone Use Rates in Canada. It highlights the NWT in there. The second document I would like to table under that topic is the British Columbians Support a Cell Phone Ban for Drivers. The third document I would like to table is Survey shows strong support for laws restricting mobile use while driving. The fourth document I wish to table is Cell phone ban in effect for Ontario drivers. The last thing I would like to table is the story in the Globe and Mail, Ontario cell phone ban begins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TABLED DOCUMENT 23-16(4):  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER  
ANNUAL REPORT 2008

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Pursuant to section 99 of the Legislative Assembly Executive Council Act, I hereby table the Annual Report for the Calendar Year 2008 of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

### Motions

MOTION 3-16(4):  
APPOINTMENT OF CONFLICT OF  
INTEREST COMMISSIONER,  
CARRIED

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 91(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides that the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint a Conflict of Interest Commissioner to exercise the powers and perform the duties set out in the act;

AND WHEREAS the appointment of the current Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Mr. Gerald Gerrand, expires November 30, 2009;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly considers the appointment of a Conflict of Interest Commissioner essential to exercise the powers and perform the duties under the act;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly have expressed an interest in reappointing Mr. Gerrand for a second term as Conflict of Interest Commissioner;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that pursuant to section 91 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly

recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories the appointment of Mr. Gerald Gerrand as Conflict of Interest Commissioner, for a four-year term to be effective December 1, 2009.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

### Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I would like to call the Committee of the Whole to order. We have Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** 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. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011, 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. Krutko. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte):** Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Priorities and Planning committee at adjournment.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011
  - Committee Report 1-16(4), Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Annual Reports
  - Committee Report 2-16(4), Report on the Review of the Auditor General on Contracting for Goods and Services in the Northwest Territories
  - Tabled Document 18-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010

- Tabled Document 19-16(4),  
Supplementary Appropriation No. 3  
(Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.  
Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until  
Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 16:31 p.m.