



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, February 4, 2010**

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**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Hay River North)

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(Frame Lake)

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**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>3945</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3945</b>
55-16(4) – Success of New Approach to Corrections Training and Recruitment (Lafferty).....	3945
56-16(4) – Minister Absent from the House (Roland) .....	3945
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3946</b>
Caribou Conservation Measures (Krutko).....	3946
Establishment of an Ombudsman Office (Bisaro) .....	3946
Delivery of Seniors Home Heating Subsidy Program (Bromley) .....	3947
Caribou Conservation Measures (Yakeleya) .....	3947
Daycare Programs in Tu Nedhe Communities (Beaulieu) .....	3948
Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Week (Menicoche).....	3948
Adequate Supports for Community Health Care Centres (Jacobson).....	3948
Government Contracting Practices (Ramsay).....	3949
Caribou Conservation Measures (Groenewegen).....	3950
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>3950, 3969</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>3951</b>
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>3961</b>
<b>REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS</b> .....	<b>3961</b>
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b> .....	<b>3965</b>
10-16(4) – Resolution of Caribou Harvesting Issue (Yakeleya) .....	3965
<b>MOTIONS</b> .....	<b>3966</b>
9-16(4) – Extended Adjournment of the House to February 8, 2010 (Bisaro).....	3966
<b>FIRST READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>3966</b>
Bill 11 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act.....	3966
<b>SECOND READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>3966</b>
Bill 10 – Exemption Act.....	3966
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>3966, 3969</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>3967, 3979</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>3979</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, February 4, 2010****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:34 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 55-16(4):  
SUCCESS OF NEW APPROACH TO  
CORRECTIONS TRAINING  
AND RECRUITMENT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide an update on our new approach to recruit and training corrections officers and youth officers to work in our facilities.

In the past, we have had challenges with recruiting Northerners for these specialized jobs. Not just anyone can work as a corrections officer or in a correctional centre. These jobs take many skills and the right attitude. The skills required are not easy to come by in the North, and we need to make sure that people have the skills and training they need to qualify for these jobs. Situations can escalate within seconds and staff need to be able to react quickly and appropriately.

We wanted Northerners to qualify for these jobs. That's especially true because our approach to corrections is much different than the approaches that are common in other parts of Canada. Our focus is on rehabilitation and community reintegration and we use a direct supervision model that has our staff and offenders working closely together.

We need people who have the same approach, people who care about their communities, people who want to help inmates deal with the issues that have been leading them to crime. We can't train people to care about their communities. We can train people who already care about their communities to be good corrections staff. This is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' work to improve human resource management through training, career planning and encouraging

employee innovation. Our own Justice Northern Workforce Development Plan depends on this client-focused, service-oriented model.

Our northern solution is a recruitment program which identifies Northerners with the right aptitude and attitude and then provides them with a six-week training program. It was developed by Northerners and graduates are qualified to start work at any of our correctional centres right away. So far, 20 people have graduated. That's 20 northern residents who qualified right away to work in our corrections system or in any other security-type job in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the next program will start this April with concurrent training programs in Yellowknife and Fort Smith. These programs are delivered in-house by qualified instructors. We need people with all sorts of backgrounds to work in corrections. Our diversity is our strength. We hire people with training in social work, education, nursing, recreation, counselling, management and law enforcement. Sometimes people don't realize how many opportunities they have. We think this training program will help.

Our corrections service is working hard to recruit and retain northern staff to be as responsible as we can be to the needs of northern offenders. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 56-16(4):  
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Bob McLeod will be absent from the House today to attend promotional events related to the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

## Members' Statements

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CARIBOU CONSERVATION MEASURES

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise today on an issue I raised yesterday in the House. I find it kind of ironic that the Government of the Northwest Territories is falling back to federal legislation that was passed in the federal Parliament in 1960 to deal with an issue in 2010. I think, Mr. Speaker, it's a bad precedent that this government is setting on how we manage the affairs of the Northwest Territories by going back to the colonial government of John Diefenbaker.

At that time, we used to have a council which was appointed by Ottawa and ran the government out of Ottawa, and now we are in the situation where we are going back to that same legislation and same process of falling back instead of going ahead and agreeing to acknowledging aboriginal rights, aboriginal land claims and Canadian constitutional changes in regards to Section 35, acknowledging aboriginal people's rights in the Northwest Territories and enhancing those processes to enact those legislative agreements that have been passed in this Legislature by adhering to aboriginal rights with regard to constitutional rights and, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, the right as Canadians to upholding our Constitution, Section 35.

Mr. Speaker, I find it kind of hard to understand how a government can make a political decision on outdated decisions regarding a government which no longer applies to the Northwest Territories. We are a new Territory after division. We have land claims settled in the Northwest Territories. We also have agreements that clearly stipulate the process this government must follow before it takes any type of radical decisions such as the one we're dealing with today by ensuring due process, making sure that the needs levels of indigenous people are upheld, and allowing those aboriginal people the right to subsistence harvesting on a manageable level. I think for myself, a Member of this House going on 15 years, this sets a bad precedent in regard to how we make decisions in this Legislature for the people of the Northwest Territories, running back to Ottawa, going through their archives to dig up something that might be...

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. KRUTKO:** This sets a bad precedent where we have to go back to the federal archives in Ottawa to dig up anything we can to justify what we're doing today in 2010. I think because of the

justification of how this came about, the process was enhanced and I think it's critical that this government investigates exactly how this took place. I will be asking the Minister questions on why we had to go to the federal archives.

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

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OMBUDSMAN OFFICE

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over my time in this Assembly I have encountered quite a few situations where constituents have been at odds with a body or organization who has made a decision that affects the constituent or their family. In most cases when that happens the only recourse available is for the matter to be taken to court. That option comes with all sorts of problems attached. Most people don't have the money to pay for a lawyer. Most people are not comfortable in the court system even if they do have a lawyer. As well, the court system is adversarial and does not allow for solving a dispute with mediation and arbitration, in most cases. That's a process which is far less combative and much more in line with what most of us are used to in our daily lives.

I know that Members of this House have previously argued for an office of an ombudsman and I want to add my voice to that chorus, albeit a faint chorus at the moment. There are innumerable situations where NWT residents could use an ombudsman to assist in solving a dispute or disagreement. Disputes such as landlord-tenant issues that are outside the jurisdiction of the rental officer; an investigation and/or decision by a self-regulating body where the professional person feels it was incorrectly handled or resulted in an unjust decision; decisions by housing authorities that the client may disagree with; income support issues -- a family may lose their home due to Income Support not issuing cheques in a timely manner and they would like to dispute that; health and social services issues -- an ombudsman can investigate administrative decisions by officials in hospitals and other medical facilities; decisions made by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission could go to an ombudsman. For all of these situations, and many others as well, there's no avenue of appeal except the court.

An ombudsman is impartial and independent from the government. They would make recommendations to resolve issues of unfairness and to improve administrative processes. Many of us in this House receive inquiries from constituents in distress because we, as MLAs, are an informal avenue of appeal and I don't believe that MLA intervention is the best way to solve these sorts of disputes.

All these disputes could be dealt with by an ombudsman. Almost two years ago now the Minister of Justice advised that his department would look into the possibility of establishing an ombudsman office. I will have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
DELIVERY OF SENIORS HOME HEATING  
SUBSIDY PROGRAM

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk today about the woeful delivery of the Seniors Home Heating Subsidy and the need for improvements in our general customer service approach. One of my constituents applied for the heating fuel subsidy and filed his paperwork asking for propane fuel. He was told more information was needed, re-filed the identical information, and was approved. He heard nothing until a delivery truck arrived at his rural home and filled his generator fuel tank with diesel. He called the department, reported the error, and was told he would receive propane this time. The allowable benefit for propane is 3,200 litres.

The department mistakenly approved him for the 2,400 litre diesel allowance. Upon request, they corrected this error. The department told him to call the propane company to arrange his delivery. The company has no Yellowknife service representatives and when he called they knew nothing of the program. He went to the Yellowknife office and was told that the delivery would be made and to give the propane company the government delivery order so the company could get payment from the department. He supplied that. The bill went unpaid for three months and he began to get letters demanding payment and saying late payment charges would be added. The overdue account was turned over to a collection agency with a warning that his credit rating would be damaged. The bill has now been paid but he is still on the hook for the late payment charges, which the department hasn't paid.

I think you would agree that this experience could hardly have been worse. I am not only concerned with the disappointing treatment of my constituent, but with the potential loss of benefits to many seniors owing to the complexity, difficulty and failed management of the program. This person happened to have sophisticated skills for dealing with government. Others who may be less well-educated or informed might never know the program due to lack of promotion. They might abandon their attempts to receive support at any one of the failed service points in this process. They could receive less than their allowance benefits due to errors in the amount and type of fuel subsidy

being approved. They could end up suffering adverse credit rating consequences or even the loss of their credit rating. They would definitely be subjected to long and unnecessary anxiety and inconvenience.

Seniors receive this assistance because they are in need of extra support. While the program is admirable and reasonable in its intentions, this case demonstrates dreadful customer service delivery. If we were a business...

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Speaker, if we were a business, we would have gone out of business long ago with this sort of performance. The department has been informed of this incident and promised prompt action, but we need to do better for all our customers. I will be asking questions later about improving our general service delivery. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
CARIBOU CONSERVATION MEASURES

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been reviewing some of my notes from yesterday and from the exchange I had with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Minister of ENR. Mr. Speaker, the issue with me is with the consultation process in terms of looking at the issue of caribou with the aboriginal people. Mr. Speaker, I also understand that the Minister indicated in the House that they were close to coming to a resolution of this issue with the Yellowknives Dene. Certainly, there are two views as to the type of resolution, Mr. Speaker. I find it very puzzling that we are coming to a point in this type of discussion where you have two opposing views as to dealing with the caribou in this specific area. It also entails other discussions around rights, treaty rights, food for survival, even the method of consultation and the method that we've been receiving or even the scientific evidence. I haven't seen much weight on the traditional evidence in terms of that coming forward, in terms of what are the aboriginal people telling us about the caribou in terms of evidence of the elders, in terms of how we should deal with this important species for their livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to follow up later regarding this Member's statement with my questions to the Minister in terms of a resolution with the Yellowknives Dene in terms of how do we resolve this issue. I think that there are some ways that we could work out. There have been suggestions by

the Dene Nation in their motions in terms of how do we deal with this issue way before it's coming to this point here. So I want to ask the Minister later on in terms of how do we ensure that the needs of the people who depend on caribou are looked after. Their culture is at risk and at stake here. There is a herd that the ENR office has said that is going to possibly become extinct if we do nothing. There has not been much weight given to the diamond mines up there and the thousands and thousands of trucks that go by there every year. There are other issues we haven't talked about. It seems like we are just putting this on the aboriginal hunters, Mr. Speaker. That is not fair.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DAYCARE PROGRAMS IN TU NEDHE COMMUNITIES

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about daycare programs in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution. Mr. Speaker, we know how important it is for preschool children and those from K to 6 to have a positive nurturing environment to grow up in. The Tinkers and Tots program in Lutselk'e and Little Darlings Daycare in Fort Resolution provide this atmosphere for the children. Mr. Speaker, these programs are doing a great service in each of these communities. These programs are operating on minimum funding but yet it is still providing a fun, structured, positive environment for the children.

The principal of Lutselk'e told me about the amazing success story of the kindergarten class. She says the credit for those students to come into kindergarten with necessary language and social skills at a level necessary to learn in kindergarten is a credit to the work being done at Tinkers and Tots. The staff at the Little Darlings Daycare program is also doing a tremendous job in Fort Resolution, where there is limited annual funding for the staff and on many occasions they are working nine hours a day without overtime to provide a healthy, positive environment for the children.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken many times in this House about the social, economic, even health challenges that plague many of our smaller communities. A long-term solution is to provide adequate supports and resources to those small communities to the daycares today. Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to have these daycare programs fail. Just yesterday, I spoke about the problems of school absenteeism in these smaller communities. A well-run daycare program directly addresses this problem.

Mr. Speaker, the staff in Tinkers and Tots and Little Darlings programs and many residents in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution are dedicated and committed

to providing a positive, healthy and rich learning environment for these children.

Mr. Speaker, later on today I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON APPRENTICESHIP AND OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATION WEEK

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This week is Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Week. I would like to recognize how the government has increased emphasis on and support for training apprenticeship opportunities and occupational certification over the past few years. This is paying off. We will need these graduates to work on the highways and pipelines in our future. There are many advantages to taking a trade. A person can work often in their own community and attend tiers of training at Aurora College and/or colleges down south.

Occupational certification programs provide similar advantages. As new certificates are developed, workers can go through a program of work experience and training and get recognized credentials in their field. As well, when employers are hiring, they can be assured that applicants have competencies. MACA's development of occupational standards is a good example as it has helped bands and municipalities to improve the skills of their staff.

People in my riding of Nahendeh have benefited from these programs, Mr. Speaker. This year there were three apprenticeship graduates. Enos Tonka, has an apprenticeship as a carpenter. Mr. Nathan Taylor has a heavy duty equipment technician and as well Mark O'Neill, formerly of Fort Simpson, as an automotive service technician. Shawn Gillis, who works for the Village of Fort Simpson, received an occupational certificate as a recreational facility operator specializing in skating rinks. I am pleased to congratulate these men for their achievements. I am pleased that the government has supported these endeavours. I commend all apprentices throughout the North and those who are planning to attend, because our North needs you. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ADEQUATE SUPPORTS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CENTRES

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Health care is one of the most important services this government can provide to our residents and



communities across the Northwest Territories. It's not easy. Many challenges the northern health care providers face are truly unique to the North. For many small, remote communities all across the North, such as Nunakput, the community centres provide a large range of services for the average flu, regular elderly examinations and, in some cases, even emotional wellness programs. These are many reasons why this is so critical for this government to adequately provide not only the resources but the technical and administrative support to all communities. Health care centres can provide proper health care services.

Mr. Speaker, during my recent visits to Nunakput communities, speaking with the leadership, most centres lack the basic requirements in addition to resources, medical professionals or specialists visiting the community and are seriously eroding the standard of care this government is committed to providing.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in previous Member's statements, the staff in the community health care centres when they work they almost have to improvise. This government must step up and implement all various recommendations and suggestions through the years of various reports from local governments.

In Nunakput, the communities, if there is a serious condition the plane leaves from Inuvik and has to fly into the community and sometimes it takes five to six hours for a medevac before they can see a doctor. Especially health care centres, they must be adequately equipped as clinics such as Inuvik and Yellowknife. We all know how fast medical conditions can progress in even one or two months. The situation means the difference between life and death, as I have expressed in several Member's statements over these last 18 months.

Health centre staff and nurses are working very hard in trying to ensure the best medical service that they can provide, but this government needs to help. This government needs to devote the resources to ensure the problems do not affect the quality of care to our residents, but it needs to ensure that the shortages that are experienced in small, remote communities aren't always bearing the brunt of it all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING PRACTICES

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address the issue of government contracting today. In 2008-2009 we spent upwards of \$515 million in

contracts. The government's stated objectives for contracting is to acquire goods and services in a way that enhances suppliers' access to contracts, encourages competition, reflects fairness, transparency and accountability in the spending of public funds.

Mr. Speaker, over 10 percent of our total procurement, roughly \$53 million, was acquired through sole-sourced means. There is little doubt that as a government we need to contract, but from what I have seen, and continue to see, from this government is a propensity to sole-source contracts to the detriment of our stated objectives.

Sole-sourcing throws competition out the window. It is much more likely to show favouritism to friends and family and our pursuit of spending public funds with transparency becomes very questionable. Looking through the Government of the Northwest Territories Contracts Over \$5,000 Report from 2008-2009, it becomes very clear that we have a habit of handing out sole-sourced contracts to former employees for consulting services. The report is very short on the nature of the work that was conducted. Why are we sole-sourcing so many consulting services?

Mr. Speaker, judging by the amount of references to studies, reports and strategies by the Finance Minister in this year's budget address, it looks like an all-you-can-eat buffet for consultants. I've always taken issue with the government's reliance on consultants and it is even worse if the consultants continue to be retained via sole-sourced contracts. Whatever happened to trying to get the best price?

Consulting services for communication services in particular is out of control. Hundreds of thousands of dollars just handed to one company. No competition, no RFP, no transparency, no accountability.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Shame.

**MR. RAMSAY:** My fear, and I've said this before, is many of our senior managers are becoming or actually spending most of their time as contract administrators. The work is being consistently farmed out to consultants. How do we or can we get some of this work done by our departmental staff? The trend of spending on consultants and sole-sourcing contracts can easily be reviewed on an annual basis.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Can we not come up with a goal of reducing our bad habit of sole-sourcing and our reliance on expensive consultants?

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CARIBOU CONSERVATION MEASURES

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Judging by the audience we have in the gallery today there is a very important issue there. I was going to speak about something else today, but I feel it's important that since so many people have demonstrated an interest in this topic of the caribou, that I speak to it from my vantage point as only one of 19 Members elected to this Legislature. I hope this will be received in the spirit in which it is intended.

For the sake of the caribou I implore leaders of all affected stakeholder groups to continue a dialogue that is mutually respectful of all parties. Please don't allow valuable time, financial, and wildlife resources to be negatively impacted by the personalizing or politicizing of this very important question.

I would like the GNWT and the Minister to continue to explore every option possible to avoid a standoff, a gridlock, or an all-out legal battle over the management of this unique and traditionally precious commodity.

Every one of the ranging caribou herds must be sustained for the benefit of those who will come after us. This isn't about Minister Miltenberger and it isn't about Chief Erasmus. It is about humans who will be humble enough to bring the best traditional and scientific knowledge to bear on our God-given, Creator-given duty we have as humans for the well-being of our land and our wildlife.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

#### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my great pleasure today to welcome the many people of Dettah and Ndilo, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, their supporters, and residents of the area. I'd like to mention some names, but I certainly can't mention all. In particular are Chief Edward Sangris and Ted Tsetta of Dettah and Ndilo, and Grand Chief Bill Erasmus. I know there are elders in the crowd here. I see Muriel Betsina, I believe, and others. Particularly the youth, I want to recognize them and all the people. I particularly appreciate the time that they have taken out of their schedules to be here today in the House with us.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a couple of hardworking Pages that came from one of my communities, Nahanni Butte. I'd like to recognize Ms. Lory Ann Bertrand and Ms. Kiayana Betsaka, as well as their chaperone, Bhreagh Ingarfield. Mahsi cho.

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

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my CA from my home community of Tuktoyaktuk, who is down here on training with the Legislative Assembly, Ms. Donna Bernhardt.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to thank and recognize two Pages from Hay River South, grade 8 students from Ecole Boreale School, Ms. Jill Belanger and Julia Gyapay.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome the chiefs that are with us, Mr. Tsetta, Mr. Sangris, and Mr. Erasmus, that are up in the gallery.

As well, Mr. Bromley talked about some youth we have here with us today. We have some special visitors from K'alemi Dene School and I'd like to just go through their names, if I could. Crystal Sangris, Shelby Betsina, Ernest Sangris, Clayton Sangris, Kristen Sangris, Maverick Betsina, Kyra Sangris, Justina Johnson-Black, Walter Johnson-Black, Jeremy Joe Frankie, Brent Betsina, Kevin Betsina, Carla Frankie, Elijah Grandjambe, Adrian Sangris, Savannah Mackenzie, Vicki-Lee Martin, Danielle Martin, and as well we've got the principal of the school, Ms. Angela James; Ms. Eileen Erasmus, Mr. David Ryan and Ms. Angela Gallant.

I'd also like to welcome everybody that's with us here this afternoon.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. If we have missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. It's always a pleasure to have an audience in here.

Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 253-16(4):

#### FUNDING FOR DAYCARE PROGRAMS

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, in my Member's statement, I spoke about daycare programs in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution. I have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

According to the department's website, the department put out a document called Framework for Action: Early Childhood Development in May 2001. Can the Minister tell me if the department has released anything more recently on childhood development?

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. That Early Childhood Program has been successful in the communities, especially in the smaller communities where we provide funding to the Aboriginal Head Start Program or preschool. The Family Literacy Program is part of the Literacy Strategy 2008-2018. And also the day homes that we've been promoting for a number of years now. We continue to promote those particular programs because we want those programs to be successful. Early childhood is important for education so we can see some success in those areas. I can certainly provide the Member or Members more detailed information in that respect.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Within our work with the Committee on Sustainable Rural and Remote Communities we have allocated money to early childhood development. Can the Minister of ECE advise me if any of that money will be targeted to daycares?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The money that we've identified in the past and going forward in early childhood consists of many aspects of facilities that we sponsor in the Northwest Territories. I can certainly provide the breakdown to the Member of the past sponsors that we've had and it does vary. If I'm going to speak to it, it's a bit of a long list. Certainly that information can be shared with the Members whenever it is requested. I can do that.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise me if his Department of Education, Culture and Employment has done any assessments pertaining to school success and its direct correlation with daycares in those communities?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the Member is asking that question. It is important to highlight that. There have been numerous assessments with regard to whether it be

the daycare, having young ones in school, if they're succeeding on to kindergarten or grade 1, what that status is on in that respect. Those are areas we continue to work with. We continue to work with education councils, as well, in the district education authority, because those are important factors that we need to consider. When we talk about the business planning process, those are the key targets that we need to discuss with those parties. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister direct his staff to contact and work the daycare programs in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution to review their needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I can certainly commit my regional staff to work with the community that the Member is referring to. Not only that, but working with the education councils as well, because we provide funding to education for facilities and operations of the schools and the daycare. It all varies in the different communities how we sponsor them, so certainly I'll commit to that, to provide more information to the Member. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 254-16(4):

#### ADEQUATE SUPPORTS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CENTRES

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my Member's statement was on health centres. Considering that northern health centres can face truly unique challenges and many small, remote communities do not have regular access to large medical facilities, will this government look into providing a community health care staff with infrastructure and resources such as on-line health care programs and services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Foundation for Change Action Plan has three pillars. One of them is accessibility and that is to make investments and focus our energy on making sure that all of our residents and our health centres have access to the health care that they need. As the Member mentioned, obviously the on-line service and electronic methods of providing health care is one of our priorities. In the last two or three years we have invested about \$15 million into the system, and we will continue to work to improve

accessibility and services in our small communities. Thank you.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Considering the health care centres in the communities are the first and only point of contact for all health-related emergencies, yet most centres lack even the most basic requirements to respond to call-outs, will this government commit to having small and remote community health centres be equipped with our major centres' health clinics?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I think it's important to note that our health care professionals, none of them are working alone. They are connected to our entire NWT health care system. A nurse or a health care community health rep or any of the staff in our remote communities are our front-line response, but they are connected to the doctors and specialists in the regional hospitals like Inuvik, then to Stanton and, if needed, to southern facilities. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's questions and it is important. We are working on making sure that our staff gets what they need to provide the services they need, especially on the front lines. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Jacobson.

**MR. JACOBSON:** As I mentioned in my Member's statement earlier, the staff at the community health centres work to improvise with what they have, but they definitely need more resources. Will this government develop and implement procedural policies and resources so small, remote community health centres have more assistance when responding to and diagnosing emergency situations? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Certainly, we wouldn't want our front-line staff to be improvising use of equipment or their practices. They need to be supported and they are supported. I could think of the H1N1 as an example where there was regular support and clinical guidelines that went out to every support staff on an ongoing basis. I believe they are doing that with other issues of health care delivery. I will take that question, Mr. Speaker, from the Member and I will commit to making sure that our front-line staff are provided with the practice guidelines and the equipment they need to provide the care for people. Thank you.

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

#### QUESTION 255-16(4):

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OMBUDSMAN OFFICE

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's statement, it was about 20 months ago, May of 2008 actually, when I asked the Minister of Justice questions in regard to an ombudsman's office and whether or not the department would consider

establishing one. The answer from the Minister at that time was that they needed to do some consultation with community, renters, tenants, department, Members and so on. I'd like to ask the Minister, at this point, what progress has been made in the last 20 months towards the establishment of an ombudsman's office. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this ombudsman has been addressed in 2008, as the Member alluded to. This does require action to make changes to the Residential Tenancies Act if we move forward on this. At the same time, we did look into that from our department perspective. The Department of Executive have done preliminary work in this area and the results also tell us that there are already a variety of means where constituencies can have their concerns or issues addressed through various venues. Also, this particular office of the ombudsman, the resource would definitely be capital expenditures; the cost factor as well. So we have to keep those in mind as well, but, definitely, I will continue to work with the Department of Executive in this regard, because it is broader than just the Justice department. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** I appreciate the answer from the Minister. My concerns are larger than just the Residential Tenancies Act. That is one aspect of work that an ombudsman can do and the service that they can provide for our residents. I also appreciate the fact that this is going to cost money, but there are some things where the money needs to be spent in order to provide better services for our residents. We need an office, an opportunity for residents to appeal decisions which affect them. I'd like to ask the Minister -- he kind of alluded to the fact that there's lots now -- what sorts of things do exist right now for residents to address a dispute and to avoid court in the process. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, we can certainly talk about the process that we have in place, whether it be the MLAs coming to the Minister and dealing with certain issues or the process. We try to rectify the problems or challenges that are before us. Sometimes it does take time to deal with those matters because of the documentation that's required. Whatever we do, Mr. Speaker, we try to avoid the court proceedings. That should be the last resort as much as we can. We currently deal with a variety of, I guess you can say, options of how we can deal with matters at hand. Within the Department of Justice, I deal with various aspects of the judicial system, the court proceedings. Not only that, but the Residential Tenancies Act and other acts that are in place.

Those are the venues that we continue to work with. I think the best approach would be to work closely with the Regular MLAs to deal with their constituency matters and resolve those issues expeditiously.

**MS. BISARO:** I guess the Minister and I will have to agree to disagree. I think that the office of an ombudsman is known to be impartial and known to be independent. I don't think that MLAs and Ministers and department people are going to be impartial and independent from any dispute in which they are involved. There is nothing that allows an individual to appeal a particular decision unless there is actually an appeal board. If the appeal board turns them down, they have nowhere to go except the court. So I reiterate again that an office is needed.

I would like to ask the Minister... He says that he is willing to continue to look into this. I guess I would like to ask the Minister if he is going to continue to look into the possibilities of establishing this office. Could he describe for me what those actions are? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I guess the action would be that we need to work on this with the Executive. Like I said, it is beyond just the Justice department. The ombudsman is an avenue of last resort. According to other jurisdictions that have them, and investigating complaints about breaches of privacy or legislation after all other avenues have been exhausted. So this is the last resort venue. We deal with matters that have come to our attention. I try to deal with it immediately. I try to resolve those issues. I think we have an excellent mechanism that we can deal with those areas. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that matters are being dealt with, but again I have to say that an MLA, a Minister, a department official are not impartial and independent. That is the service that we need for our residents. I would like to ask the Minister if this work is going to be ongoing, if there is going to be work between Justice and the Executive. When can I expect to get some information about how this office is progressing? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, we can certainly provide the information that we do have on hand about our research that we have done and our consultation with various provincial jurisdictions and working with the Executive branch. We can certainly provide that information, Mr. Speaker. As we move forward, if this is an area that we need to look at, then we can certainly discuss with the Member and also the standing committee. If we need to move forward with costs, there will be a cost factor. So that needs to be taken into consideration as well. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 256-16(4):

CARIBOU MANAGEMENT MEASURES

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. It is on the issue of the caribou. Mr. Speaker, this issue of conservation and use of the caribou as a resource in our Territory is a very complex issue. Mr. Speaker, we heard complaints about the consultation that took place between our government as a public government and the leaders of the aboriginal governments and the people who are affected by the harvest of this resource.

Mr. Speaker, consultation speaks to me about an exchange of ideas, information. It speaks to me of a dialogue, not a one-way kind of communication or conveying of information. I have been, as a committee member, the recipient of the very scientific technical information regarding the caribou. It is interesting, but I would like to ask the Minister, we as a public government, can he update us on what proactive measures that we have taken as a government to have meaningful dialogue consultation with the other stakeholders who are responsible for this resource as well? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have, as recently as two nights ago, met with the Yellowknives council over in Dettah. We have had conversations and discussions with Chief Sangris in the interim as well. I have met yesterday with the acting grand chief for the Tlicho about the ban and the other processes that we have underway and the need, of course, to protect the caribou. We recognize that there are some unresolved issues with the Yellowknives. We have discussions underway with them that we are hoping will bear some fruit here in the next day or so. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I asked several questions to the Minister on this same topic. I would like the Minister if he could, from his perception, characterize the degree of progress that we have made in dialoguing with our partners on this subject. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, we have continued support from the Tlicho Government and the Northwest Territories Metis. The North Slave Metis Alliance has indicated their concern about the herd. The Yellowknives have very strong concerns about the fate of the caribou

as well. We have had discussions. We are continuing to have, I think, productive discussions. There are some issues on the table for consideration. I am hoping that since we both want to do, in the long run, the right thing by the caribou, we will be able to come to a meeting of the minds here in the not-too-distant future. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, what the Minister has outlined does seem like a fairly substantial body of work that is being undertaken. Does the Minister, from that consultation, have any options or next steps, ideas going forward and even as an interim measure that could alleviate the concerns about the treaty rights for harvesting the caribou? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, what is currently being discussed are specific proposals, suggestions, options in terms of moving forward to deal with the issue of the right to harvest, keeping in mind the broader and fundamental need to protect the herd over the course of this hunting season so that we can engage, through the Wekeezhii process and further consultation with the Yellowknives, the Tlicho, the Northwest Territories Metis, about a longer term harvest management plan for the Bathurst or the Ahiak or the Bluenose-East which is going to be, as I indicated, a very complex undertaking. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, just to be absolutely clear so that everyone understands then, the Minister, as our point person, as our leader on this file, is telling us here today in the House and to the public that there are things that could be done to accommodate the rights of people to harvest while at the same time protecting this resource. There is flexibility in terms of our government's mandate and ability to set rules, that there is flexibility through these negotiations and consultations. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I have been so preoccupied with caribou that I forgot to recognize my own mayor sitting in the gallery and her son. I have to keep in mind not to miss some other things as well. Yes, I believe that we, because of the continued goodwill between all the parties and the recognition that we want to resolve this, have an opportunity to sort out the immediate issues surrounding the ban as well as engaging the much broader longer term, more important process that is going to flow out of the Wekeezhii process. It will eventually result in a caribou management plan that will include the Bathurst. We will have to speak to what will happen with the Ahiak as well as the Bluenose-East. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Before we go any further, I would like to draw your attention to the public gallery and the presence of a

former Member of this House. Mr. Leon Lafferty is with us.

The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 257-16(4):  
CARIBOU MANAGEMENT MEASURES

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to raise the issue I raised yesterday in regards to the ministerial authority to take the action that he did and exactly where did that authority come from. We have the NWT Wildlife Act. We have the NWT Act. We have treaties. We have land claim agreements. We also have Section 35 in the Canadian Constitution that recognizes an inherence to aboriginal rights in Canada in regards to treaty rights and the rights of First Nations people. I would like to ask the question, under what authority did the Minister make the decision to move forward and the decision to impose this restriction?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has basically listed the enabling legislation and subsequent authorities that we have used. The Northwest Territories Act, of course, is what gives us the ability to sit here in this forum to do the work of the people of the Northwest Territories. We have worked, and are working long and hard, to take over the decisions collectively as Northerners for the land and resources. Wildlife is one of the jurisdictions that we have authority over, as Minister Strahl confirmed when he was here last week. So the Northwest Territories Act and the Wildlife Act. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you. My understanding is that I tabled a document yesterday where I believe there was an Order-in-Council passed in 1960, which basically allowed certain restrictions on certain species in regard to barren-ground caribou, muskox, polar bear and the Wood Buffalo. Is that the authority you're talking about when you talk about the NWT Act, the Order-in-Council that was passed in 1960, is that where you got the authority from?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. Clearly that document from 1960 that lists the barren land caribou and muskox, polar bear and bison, is one of the documents that enable us to do the work that we are doing. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Aboriginal people have come a long ways since 1960. In 1960 they weren't even able to vote.

Since then, Mr. Speaker, the aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories and Canada have progressed to a point where we're finally recognized in the Canadian Constitution under

Section 35, which recognized the right as aboriginal people and acknowledges their treaties, Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 in the Northwest Territories, and also upholds the land claim agreements that we negotiated. I believe by not finding the legal opinion on what grounds you made that decision on and not falling back on Section 35 and those land claim agreements, I believe you have not done due diligence by allowing due process in ensuring that you made the decision, you made the right decision and you allowed for due process to take place by consulting all affected parties in this matter. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I didn't hear a question there. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 258-16(4):  
CARIBOU MANAGEMENT MEASURES

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up on Mr. Krutko's line of questioning. I did raise it yesterday with the Minister of ENR, Mr. Speaker. I know that aboriginal people come from a proud history. We tell our youth we as aboriginal people, have a special right, an inherent right in our treaties and one of them is to hunt and fish and trap as long as the sun shines, the river flows and the grass is green. We can hunt to feed our people. However, the Minister of ENR implemented a no-hunt zone, Mr. Speaker. No one disputes conservation or preservation, but what we're talking about today is restricting the right of aboriginal people to hunt, fish and trap, most particularly hunt in this no-hunt zone.

I'd like to ask the Minister again, under our NWT Act, 18(3), it says that nothing shall be construed as authorizing the Executive Council to make ordinances restricting or prohibiting Indians and Inuit from hunting for food on unoccupied lands. However, there is a stipulation about a herd being extinct and I'd like to ask the Minister what document, what research, what definition is he using for a herd being extinct, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we should also talk about the caribou and the trouble that they're in and the fact that the herd numbers have gone from 120,000 to 30,000 and that we have to take some action in the short term to make sure that the herd is protected, recognizing that we have to work to accommodate their aboriginal right to harvest, which we want to do and we have done with the Tlicho and we're working on it with the Yellowknives. We have the authorities under the Northwest Territories Act, any Orders-in-Council subsequent to that, as well as

our own Wildlife Act, which is, as we speak, being redone. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much. Canadian case law is full of examples where jurisdictions tried to prevent aboriginal people from hunting and fishing and they've always lost in court. Once again, the Minister is challenging our inherent right to hunt and fish. We're going to go to court, we're going to win, but I'd like to ask the Minister right now, we're not talking about lifting the ban, but we're talking about allowing our aboriginal people to hunt as they always have for hundreds of thousands of years. So will the Minister consider that seriously and immediately? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. We are not talking about restricting or removing any rights, we are talking about conservation, we're talking about an accommodation with the aboriginal governments to ensure that their people have access to subsistence harvest. There is agreement by the Tlicho, support by the Tlicho, support by the Metis Nation. We are working on a resolution with the Yellowknives. We are interested in resolving this. The Members in this House now have become legal scholars, well scripted with legal questions from vast talk and smooth-talking lawyers and that's not our job. If there's a question about our authority, we can have that discussion. We can fill the room with lawyers and technical staff and we can have the debate about are we a duly constituted government, do we have that authority. I suggest to you that clearly we do. Every land claim that has been signed recognizes the need for conservation and the role of the government to be able to step in, and even in unsettled claims areas, 35-1, as well gives us a process to be able to do that carefully, but we are duly constituted to do that. We're going to do that very carefully and we want to resolve the outstanding issues with the Yellowknives.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much. If the Minister is creating the law or regulation that charges aboriginal people for hunting and getting them thrown in jail, then he is restricting our inherent right to hunt and fish and trap. So, once again, where does he get that authority that's based on the definition of a herd being extinct? What is the Minister's definition of this Bathurst herd being extinct? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. The science tells us, the numbers tell us, all the work we've done with the communities and all the census information tells us that if we just carry on the next, within about two to three years, the Bathurst herd as a separate distinct herd will cease to exist if we just allow the hunting to continue. We have an obligation and a requirement to do the right things to protect the herd and at the same time respect the processes that are now underway with the Wekeezhii and to consult further with the

Yellowknives to come up with a longer term plan. This short-term emergency interim measure allows us to do that. Thank you.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again, no one disagrees with the short-term emergency measures, Mr. Speaker, it's about restricting the aboriginal right to subsistence hunting. When it happened with the cod fishing, they're still allowed to fish for cod. So I'd like to ask the Minister to give that serious consideration and tell this House if he can commit to work towards that before March. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. I'll reiterate my commitment and information that I gave when the Member from Hay River South asked the questions. We have discussions underway. We have agreement with the Northwest Territories Métis. The Tlicho Government has supported our efforts for conservation. We have, and continue to have, dialogue and some clear proposals up for discussion with the Yellowknives and we are committed to hopefully resolving this issue in the not-too-distant future. Thank you.

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

#### QUESTION 259-16(4):

##### CARIBOU MANAGEMENT MEASURES

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to continue asking questions of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources on caribou. I'd like to start with, well, temporarily setting aside the whole aboriginal rights issue, the urgency of the caribou. Does the Minister fully appreciate what the caribou mean to the Yellowknives Dene and all aboriginal people? Could he describe his understanding of what they mean?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Maybe asking the Minister for his opinion. Mr. Miltenberger.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** It should be ruled out.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand here as the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I spent a lot of time over the last few years becoming very conversant in all the issues, mainly wildlife that we're dealing with. Plus I've been around for a long time, long enough to know and fully appreciate the value and importance of caribou to the people of the Northwest Territories as part of the fundamental nature and character of the Northwest Territories and has helped define how the people have evolved over the centuries.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate that note of caution. I do understand that, as well, and I fully understand that the caribou are meaningful and spiritual as well

as in the physical and nutritional and emotional ways. And I think we all do in this House. But I'm wondering if that understanding was carried into the consultation process and, if so, during the consultation process did the Minister receive the go-ahead from the Yellowknives Dene for this ban?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The reason we're still having these discussions with the Yellowknives, of course, is because we haven't come to a final understanding and agreement on the ban. There is work underway, but, no, the Yellowknives did not approve or support the ban when it was initiated.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Again, this is by way of making sure that we're all clear on why we are dealing with this issue today. I would for the record like to ask the Minister why he did then go ahead with the ban.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Emergency interim measures by definition, in my mind, we were faced with a need to make a decision to protect the caribou otherwise there would be a possible further precipitous decline and under the authorities that I did have or do have I made that very difficult decision to protect the herd and at the same time engage in the measures that were currently underway to find that area of accommodation and support among the aboriginal governments.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, I'd like to know – and I'd like to start by appreciating the Minister's action along with that of the Yellowknives Dene to get together and talk about this, involve the entire community -- how will this process continue and how will support be gathered throughout the range of the Bathurst caribou to ensure that the solution is acceptable to all and put in place effectively and quickly.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I'd like to separate again the two fundamental issues. There's the short-term issue of the number of months of the ban, which we're going to sort out here hopefully in the next little while. The longer-range planning within the Tlicho and between the Tlicho and Yellowknives and the Northwest Territories Métis and all the other stakeholders to come up with a harvest management plan is a process that is in fact now underway. The dates have slipped where the Wekeezhii board has not been able to meet its initial targets, but that longer term process is absolutely fundamental to the well-being and survival of the herds and the involvement of all the aboriginal governments through a co-management process.

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



QUESTION 260-16(4):  
CARIBOU MANAGEMENT MEASURES

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened to MLA Krutko and recall the terms of the rights for aboriginal people that have been fought for long and hard by some very good people. As a matter of fact, my grandfather signed a treaty in 1921, Chief Albert Wright, in terms of having these rights here.

I want to ask the Minister in terms of the protection of the herd and the protection of aboriginal rights with respect to the consultation and this interim measure. The Minister has indicated that he made a decision based on emergency conservation measures. I want to ask the Minister, with respect to the affected parties in the YK Dene in terms of their survival with the herd, has the Minister given that serious consideration prior to putting the ban on this specific herd?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Sahtu Final Agreement, as it pertains to wildlife harvesting and management, it states there that the government shall retain the ultimate jurisdiction for the management of wildlife and wildlife habitats, and in emergency circumstances requiring immediate decisions respecting policies and regulations in respect to the harvesting of wildlife by any person, the Minister may make interim emergency decisions. We see this as an emergency. We're fully committed. We've got resources ready to work with the Yellowknives. We've come to an agreement with the Tlicho Government where they've supported this necessity and the alternative measures. We're working with the Yellowknives to come to, hopefully, a satisfactory conclusion. As well, to address the issue to make sure there is caribou available from other areas. At the same time doing the fundamental issue of protecting the Bathurst herd.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** The right to hunt and provide food for our people, to teach them many different methods of survival of the aboriginal people. The issue here is in terms of the rights of aboriginal people to hunt for food for their families for their survival. In terms of the attitudes of governments of the past not to recognize aboriginal rights, this is the attitude I see of this government here in terms of putting a ban on hunting without proper consultation with the affected parties. Is the Minister, in terms of his decision with his staff in terms of having traditional knowledge, let the people decide for themselves how to handle the caribou, will the Minister give that to the people?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We fully respect and engage in the area of traditional knowledge. In fact, when the caribou work was

being done in the Sahtu, the Member's riding, Colville Lake was given money because they didn't really believe the government numbers about the decline of the herd and they were given money to in fact replicate and see what their numbers told them. They came back with the same information, that there was a decline. The Member helped negotiate the Sahtu Agreement where the quote I just made about where there are urgent circumstances, the Minister has the authority to intervene if it's necessary and can be justified. We're in the same circumstances here. The Member should appreciate that he contemplated, when he helped negotiate the Sahtu Agreement, that there is a conservation issue here that we are trying to deal with in the most constructive way possible keeping in mind the need to ensure that there is still the aboriginal right to harvest.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** At the time of the negotiations I didn't know Minister Miltenberger would be our Minister in terms of this issue here. I wanted to say that in terms of making reference to residents of Colville Lake, Colville Lake people, I spoke to them the other day, they had some words for it and I can't say them in the House in terms of the issue of caribou. The Minister has indicated that. I'll leave it at that.

I want to ask the Minister in terms of the impact of caribou in this here, has he really looked at the impacts of the diamond mines, vehicles that are going into the diamond mines, has that been given consideration in terms of he is putting a lot of weight onto the aboriginal people and that's not fair. So I want to ask the Minister in terms of his discussions with the money over food in terms of the impacts of the mines and the vehicles.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The one thing we know we can control in the short term over this hunting season is the hunt, where we estimated that anywhere from 7,000 to 10,000 animals are taken out annually. When you only have 30,000 animals left, that is a significant impact. We recognize there are concerns about the mines, the resource development, the winter road. All those projects, I would add, have gone through a fairly thorough environmental assessment process...(inaudible)...but in fact we recognize, as we do the broader, longer term harvest management plan, the issues of cumulative impact and if we look at all the measures required to protect the herd, are the issues about traffic on the winter road and all those other issues related to the mines there for discussion? Absolutely.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to the issue here it seems like the rights of the aboriginal people have taken a back seat to the conservation issue here. This is a basic right given

by the Creator himself in terms of the relationship with the animals. This seems like it's been taken away by this government here. That is the attitude. I want to ask the Minister with respect to resolving this issue as soon as possible to give the right back to the aboriginal hunters so they can feed their people. I ask the Minister if he can do that.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** That right is there. It's not for us to change that right. What we want to do is make the right decisions on the conservation side to ensure that future generations have a resource they can hunt in the coming generations for our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and on into the future. That is the requirement for the conservation measures that are currently underway in the short term.

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

QUESTION 261-16(4):  
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING PRACTICES

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got some questions today and I guess I'll give the Minister of Finance, who happens to be the Minister of ENR, a bit of a break and ask my questions to the Premier. It goes back to my Member's statement from earlier today when I talked about government contracting and the fact that in 2008-2009 the Government of the Northwest Territories sole sourced a total of over \$53 million in contracts. In the Department of Executive, for example, out of 39 contracts, 26 of them were sole sourced and some of these to former bureaucrats. I'd like to ask the Premier what strategy he has to address the fact that we're relying so much on former bureaucrats and consultants in trying to do the work of the people in the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The area of sole-sourced contracts, that is one of the tools that the government has available through our Contracts Policy, whether it is negotiated contracts, sole-sourced contracts, public tenders, requests for proposals, requests for qualifications. In the area of the Executive itself, this has been a practice that's been in place for many years of sole-sourced contracts when we feel that it is necessary to hire an individual who we feel can get the work we need done. Whether it is in Ottawa or another provincial jurisdiction or whether it is in fact working with our own aboriginal partners in the Northwest Territories. It is a tool that we have available to use when we do this. We follow the guidelines that we have in place.

**MR. RAMSAY:** When you do go to a sole-source way of acquiring goods and services, like I said in my statement, the transparency and accountability

take a back seat to hiring whoever you want. I think the people in the Northwest Territories deserve a better way of doing things. I know there are times when sole-sourcing is required. But, for example, in the Department of Executive there is a communications firm, and I won't mention any names. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have gone to that one outlet. Why wasn't that put out to RFP? There are many communications companies here in the Northwest Territories that could have bid on that work. Why was that sole-sourced?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** The Member talks about a contract with a firm. I'm not aware of this specific issue that the Member has or the company and will appropriately not address it at this forum. I will be prepared if he wants to sit down with me over this issue and provide him information on that. Right now, without knowing the specifics, I don't have it at my hands here to make any proper response to.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I will take the Premier up on that and give him the name outside of this forum. I wanted to ask the Premier whether or not the Government of the Northwest Territories is monitoring the level of reliance that this government has on consulting services. In my mind, it's getting worse and whether or not we can try to rein in the spending that this government does in the area of consultants and hiring people to do the work on behalf of the government. Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, on a regular basis, as we go through our process of approving contracts, there are guidelines that are used, whether they are low-level amounts that the authority has within a department's authority spending levels or if it a director or even to the deputy minister and also to the Cabinet table. We do look at that, as right now ITI pulls all of our contracting information. We look at that information at times and look at what we're doing and question department's on some of the initiatives and why it was needed to go in that area. So we do do that review, yes.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, going through the contract book, I'd just like to ask the Premier: do former bureaucrats, deputy ministers, have any preferential treatment when it comes to being given sole-source contracts by this government? Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Speaker, there is no preferential treatment given to anyone in the Northwest Territories. They have to bring their qualities and qualifications to the table. Now, as the Member has pointed out, there has been a history, whether it's this government, previous governments, that use either past senior managers, and again, departments, Ministers have that authority to enter into some contracts. Being a

small jurisdiction, at times if the Minister or a department is comfortable with the work that has been provided, at times you need to use those people and those resources to continue on some work that may have been started and bring it to conclusion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 262-16(4):  
CARIBOU MANAGEMENT MEASURES

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, getting back to my Member's statement and also in regard to the whole area of change that has taken place since the famous Order-in-Council passed in 1960 by the federal Cabinet. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories has had a grave history in regard to how aboriginal people have moved forward and trying to find ways of getting entrenched into the democratic system of the Northwest Territories regardless if it's by way of ensuring that we were involved in the decision-making process, regardless if it's regulatory management boards, economic measures. But again, Mr. Speaker, where a lot of these powers really took hold was in the Constitution Act amendments in 1982 in regard to the Canadian Constitution amendments which recognized and affirmed aboriginal rights under Section 35.

Since then, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about something that took place in 1960. Yet, all these activities have changed the legal precedents that have been set. We have the Marshall case. We have court cases that have set precedents in Canada. But for a government to go back to 1960 and pull something out of the archives and say this is where I got my authority from is not the way that the government should be operating. We have the NWT Act. There's a process to make amendments to the NWT Act. Why is this government not using that process to find ways to resolve this issue and do it by amendments to legislation that this government is responsible for in the NWT in regard to the Wildlife Act?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the area the Member goes into, he's well aware, he's negotiated for claims processes through the Sahtu and the Gwich'in as well, and he's familiar with the legislation that we operate under. He's been a Member of this Legislative Assembly for as long as I have, since 1995, and we know we both sit in this forum because of the NWT Act. I recall when my father was given the right to vote as well.

The issue that we have here is that we haven't gone and dug out some piece of legislation that sat there. It is a part of the NWT Act. It is a part of an amendment the federal government made as it transferred the authority to the North and considered the possibilities of this situation. So we have the NWT Act that puts it in place, whether it is the legislative branch, the executive branch, the judicial branch, it puts it in place. We have within that the acts that have been transferred down to us and the authorities, so the Wildlife Act is one of those.

As Minister Miltenberger pointed out, we have been working through quite a number of years with our aboriginal partners in the North to up that piece of legislation, because we recognize, for example, the Tlicho Government is in place now, we recognize the land claim agreements that are in place now, and we need to update that. It is the area we have the most complex situation, is in the unsettled areas. For example, we have a clear process in the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit, the Sahtu and the Tlicho. It is the unsettled areas where we have more of a complex procedure and arrangements and we're continuing to try to work through those. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I think, as a government, we already have an avenue to try to resolve this issue. It's trying to amend the NWT Wildlife Act to ensure that these situations we're in now can be avoided in the future and, more importantly, entrench those legal obligations we have to First Nations people in regard to hunting rights, and spell it out in the NWT Act so that we know it's clear that there is a process that when we have this situation we will have dialogue, we will have discussions and we will have a process to resolve our outstanding issues through a legislative process. Right now we don't have that and that's why we have the problem that we're in. I'd like to know, by using that process, if that's a better avenue than trying to go to court.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what we're trying to do with the Wildlife Act. In fact, this government is committed to bring it back to this Assembly before the end of the life of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly so we can bring more clarity to the way we work together for the benefit of the people across the Northwest Territories. The Member is very familiar, as I am and other Members who have been around a long time, that we've tried to work through that process of the Wildlife Act through a number of Legislatures and where our goal is to have a new Wildlife Act put on the table for this Legislative Assembly to act. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I believe we do have to have enabling legislation to pass what's basically been negotiated in the land claim agreements, enable what's already agreed to in Treaty 8, Treaty 11, for those unsettled areas, and ensure that we

clearly spell out those arrangements through the amendments to the Wildlife Act and bring it to this House and allow that to be the process to resolve this issue. I'd like to suggest to the Minister that we put everything aside, resolve this through those discussions, bring it to conclusion and bring it back to this House.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, the process, as the Member is well aware, the Wildlife Act, as I stated earlier, has outlived a number of Assemblies. I believe it was the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly that we started the initial work, as some of us have been around that long, to try to update the Wildlife Act; the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly. We are now in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly and if we waited for that process, there's no guarantee that there will be a satisfactory response. Maybe this Assembly might send it back for some other work. Meanwhile, as the Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, on the counts and the estimated harvest that happens on an annual basis, we could be faced with a situation that was faced with back in the '50s in the Beaufort-Delta when there was no caribou and the federal government had to bring reindeer herds in and that's what people had to survive on. While we have the authorities, we see the numbers, we need to work with our partners. The Minister has been working to try to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion. We know we need to do that, and we continue to work on that basis. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I strongly recommend to the government and this Cabinet to do away with the bickering and get on with the process. We went through a whole process on Species at Risk. We did a good job there. We allowed consultation. We allowed involvement of the aboriginal groups at that table to be part of the drafting team. I think we have to do the same thing in regard to the Wildlife Act. I'd like to ask the Premier: can we put aside our differences, move forward with a table to start these negotiations, get them concluded, and agree that we basically have to find an avenue of consultation to get out of this mess that we find ourselves in? Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, the process of the Wildlife Act is in gear. We are working with the aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories to update that piece of legislation. In fact, at one of our first regional leaders' tables, we started to work on a bit of process to move these initiatives forward. The Species at Risk Act is an example of that: working together. We will continue to work on that initiative. In the meantime, we have a very serious problem facing us here in the Northwest Territories. Conservation measures have

been taken. We continue to work with the groups that are involved. We have agreement and support on the conservation initiatives and the outstanding group is the Yellowknives. The work is ongoing there. The Minister told us earlier he continues to work to try to find a solution with the Yellowknives. We hope that we can come to a satisfactory conclusion in this area. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 263-16(4):  
SENIORS HOME HEATING SUBSIDY

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment some questions about following up from my Member's statement. My constituent took advantage of a senior's home heating subsidy program because he had heard informally about it, not because of the availability and the benefit was advertised. Beyond the Internet, what steps are being taken by the Minister to promote the availability of the program to clients through mass media, contact with seniors, social service agencies and so on and other proactive means? Will the Minister take steps to see that the program is more aggressively promoted? Mahsi.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As the Member indicated, this is a particular program for seniors to deal with their home heating subsidy. We do advertise in the newspaper. Also, not only that, but Internet and also local TV channels for information. We need to spread the news into the communities that we do have subsidy available. We do what we can to spread the news through our regional representatives as well as through client service officers and the regional officers. Mr. Speaker, we continue to improve our communication dialogue on through those individuals that require subsidies such as seniors heating subsidy. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Speaker, there are lots of in-service training courses advertised but I have never seen one offered on client service management, which is an extremely well-developed science and business management. ECE and other departments deliver many programs, income support and so on, across the counter to clients. What steps will the Minister take to improve the skills of the public servants who serve the public, including mandatory training and providing good client service? Mahsi.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, one of our key priorities is, of course, public relations that

we have in place. We do have a continuous training program that is highlighted for client service officers dealing with the public. Mr. Speaker, this area is of importance to income security. We do have in-house training. We do send client service officers outside to get trained as well. So there is continuous training that is happening. We can't say that there is no training happening. I have to correct the Member that there is constant training that is taking place. We will continue to do so to improve our public relations in the general public. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member a supplementary question. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate those comments and commitments from the Minister. Are employees assessed as part of their performance evaluation on the quality of their client service with recommendations for training and improvement where necessary? On that, is there an opportunity for the public to contribute to evaluations, perhaps not on the individual but a mechanism for them to say how they are being treated so we are not kicking them when they are down or whatever? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, in this particular area, yes, our employees or client services officers under the management of the income support managers do assess them, do evaluate them based on the work criteria. Not only that, but we request for outside assessment as well. We ask certain individuals that may be as part of the clientele. We need to get input as much as we can because it is public relations. It is one of the priorities that we need to establish. We continue to improve on those areas. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we do have a mechanism to deal with that assessment of all client service officers. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Do you have a final supplementary, Mr. Bromley? Thank you. Item 9, written questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

### Written Questions

#### WRITTEN QUESTION 17-16(4): INCOME SUPPORT SERVICES TO LUTSELK'E

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

1. How many visits did client service officers make to Lutselk'e in the following years:
  - a) 2007-2008
  - b) 2008-2009
  - c) 2009-2010 (to date)

2. How many clients were seen during these visits broken down by approvals and refusals?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### WRITTEN QUESTION 18-16(4): DETAILS ON SOLE-SOURCED CONTRACTS

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive.

1. Please provide the purpose of the following contracts:
  - a) PM 007910
  - b) PM 07671
  - c) PM 06818
2. What was the reason for sole sourcing these contacts?
3. What value was were received as a result of these contracts?

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to the opening address. Mr. Krutko.

### Replies to Opening Address

#### Mr. Krutko's Reply

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we go through another budgetary process, I think there are a few things that I feel are missing here. One of the things and the frustration from the Mackenzie Delta residents I represent feel that this government is out of touch and out of sight in most cases to those people in those smaller isolated communities and communities sitting in the Mackenzie Delta by way of hearing their voices in regards to I stand up in this House time after time, raise issues for policing services to medical services to programs and services which are fundamental to the basic building blocks of communities. You need to have healthy, vibrant communities. We talked about safe communities. You can't have safe communities without policing. You can't have healthy people without good health care. You cannot have an educated society without having the jobs and the economic potential that those young people have knowing that once you are educated, you will be able to fit into the economy of the Northwest Territories and not continue to be a social statistic sitting at home because, for some reason or another, your education is not good enough. If you don't have the skills, you are not good enough.

I think this government has to focus on individuals in the Northwest Territories from the small communities to the larger centres. The focus of this

government clearly is in the larger communities and not where it needs the most attention, which is the small communities. For myself, I am frustrated to a point of coming here asking questions day after day, tabling motions in this House, writing questions, trying to get information from this government and from different Ministers and yet all they have to do is take action. A little action will go a long ways to improve services for people in small communities. That is all they want. Let us see a nurse in our community. Let us see the RCMP show up once in awhile. Let us ensure that young people growing up in Colville Lake or Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson or Aklavik or any other aboriginal community in the Northwest Territories have an opportunity to achieve the dream that they have of being successful in life.

This government has big dreams: \$165 million bridge, \$600 million Taltson project, \$100 million school in Inuvik. But I think, at the end of the day, if those people do not get out of the social situation they find themselves today, they will continue to be statistics.

I think the frustrating part that I feel of small communities is that we have totally shifted focus from the Northwest Territories as I used to know it where we have 51 communities between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. We had better services back then than we have today after division. That's the result of division. We got less, but the larger communities got more. For me that is not the way government is supposed to work.

The foundation of any government is built on how they treat society and the society that they're responsible for and the people they're responsible for. You take care of the sick, the lame, the disabled people and the people that are struggling. That's where government's role fits in, not help big companies build \$600 million hydro plants so you can give them cheap power, so they can send their diamonds over to Antwerp. That's where we're going. I think at the end of the day, this government has to really refocus its ears on exactly where you're going, but, more importantly, what are we doing that these mega projects that we're putting out there are achieving results. How many aboriginal people are employed on these job sites? How many people are getting their apprentice tickets on these job sites? How many people are staying in the Northwest Territories? There's \$240 million that migrates out of the Northwest Territories by way of people's wages every year just from the mining industry; \$240 million in wages.

I think it's fundamentally clear from the frustration of the aboriginal leadership I represent in regard to the Gwich'in leadership in regard to the frustration they have with this government, in regard to negotiated contracts, in regard to obligations we have in our land claim agreements. We talk about caribou

issues here, the Gwich'in are already in court with the Yukon because of the same type of hunting issue where the Yukon government imposed restrictions on them that you can only hunt bulls. Again, they have a treaty right, they have an obligation and are again being ignored by government. We are in the same boat here today in regard to the Bathurst issue. We're able to work out a solution in regard to the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, in regard to the Bluenose herd. Every community that has 25 tags, but if any of their members want to go hunt caribou, you have a tag. They solved that problem. They didn't have to go to court. They worked it out and determined amongst themselves, sat down together and had meetings in all the communities, got everybody together and said what do we do. They resolved it themselves without having the Minister come here with a sledgehammer, pound on the table and say, well, I've got the authority.

That's the frustration of being over on this side of the House and seeing exactly where are we really going as government. I think at the end of the day we, I'll throw this word out there, people in my riding are considering what do we have to do to get our own government? Do we have to separate? Do we go join our cousins in Alaska and our cousins in the Yukon? Is that what it's going to take to get better program services out of this government? Because I think that's where it may have to go.

I think at the end of the day the question has to be asked, are we better off when we came into this government in regard to the people in Tsiigehtchic or the people in the small communities, the unemployed. The people are struggling because of income support, because of housing. I think at the end of the day you'll get a unanimous yes, that things are worse today than they were when this government took office.

I think that side of the House has to go into those communities, go into somebody's home that's in social housing. All you've got to do is go in, ask for a cup of tea, open the fridge and see if there's anything in there, because I bet you 50 percent of the time there won't be anything in that fridge because people are struggling in our communities under the programs and services of this government.

Mr. Speaker, I think this government has to do a better job in ensuring programs and services are really there to help people than to make them beggars on their own lands. If you take away a person's right or ability to sustain themselves regardless of if it's a hunting right, a fishing right, a right to catch rabbits, if that person knows that they're better off in the bush than they are in the community -- which most of them are because out there they can sustain themselves -- but because of the government bureaucracy and the red tape in

our communities, they are basically being controlled to a point where every nickel you make, the elders payments that they get because of a land claim, is clawed back by government. They're no farther ahead by getting a payment for a land claim because you're 70 years old, because two months down the road government isn't going to help you. Oh, you've got too much money, you've got \$2,700, can't help you there, come back in two months and we might be able to help you. These are elders who are 70 years old. It's sad, but it's true.

I think, you know, I hate to put the pitch on this one of how bad things really are, but maybe what we should do is get some people from that side of the table going to our communities and sit down with the elders who are struggling and see for yourself what I'm talking about. I think sometimes you get too far up in that pyramid and you've forgot about the little guy that's on the ground. I think that's what's happening to Members on that side of the House.

I feel that sometimes it's great to have economic development, it's great to have opportunities there, but if you can't access those opportunities, can't be hired because you don't have the skills, you don't have the certification, the other thing, sorry, you don't have working boots or steel toed boots, you can't come to work because you can't afford to buy yourself the pair of boots to go to work in the first place, so how do you expect those people to get ahead?

Mr. Speaker, I think it's time to allow this government to refocus its attention to where the resources should be expended and quit building these humungous things. I know it's great for Yellowknife, the dementia centre, we've got to spend \$2 million to operate it, we're going to have a glorified clinic here, but Tsiigehtchic has a health centre with nobody to work in it. I think, if anything, we have to move some of those people out of the larger centres, put them in the communities in regard to ensuring that the services are really provided.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this government has to ensure that there is a different way of breeding wealth in the system of government we have. I know we had great intentions to allow municipalities to manage, we allowed municipalities to take advantage of federal capital infrastructure dollars, gas tax and whatnot, but the way I see it, the only groups that are going to benefit from that are the groups with high populations. The little groups like Tsiigehtchic with 170 people or Colville Lake with 120, the gas tax is so minute you couldn't build yourself a good sized house for the amount of money that you get, never mind trying to deliver services in your community, because it's based on per capita. Per capita does not work. You have to have a base funding formula that allows you to

operate water treatment plants, maintain your roads and ensure that you have public infrastructure in every community that allows you those services so that those people can receive similar services throughout the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, this government has three more budget cycles to go before the next election. Mr. Speaker, I hope that somehow we're able to refocus the wealth of this government by way of the \$1.3 billion we've spent every year and ensure that it goes to the people in most need and ensure that those dollars are being spent on the people that really are Northerners that live here, make this their homes, who we know at the end of the day are not going to migrate out because the job isn't here. We're staying here because this is our home. I think at some point in time you have to ensure that aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories are being heard, are being listened to and being told if you are going to do something, you do it. You don't say, oh yeah, well, we'll give you a nurse February 1<sup>st</sup> and then come back to a meeting in Inuvik and say sorry, I'm working on it. Working on it does not put a nurse in the community. Somebody has got to shake the tree and shake the bush and say get that nurse in the community under ministerial authority or take the money out for Tsiigehtchic and give it to the community of Tsiigehtchic and they can hire their own nurse. At least they'll get a nurse in their community. Or maybe they have to go to United Nations or take a constitutional challenge with regard to aboriginal rights in not ensuring that the health and well-being of those people are being taken care of.

I'd like to elaborate a little on this caribou issue, because something that just totally gets me is why do we have a Department of Environment that allowed this to happen in the first place? We had a herd of 400,000 animals; now we have 30,000. Who is in charge of those animals? The Department of Environment. Yet at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour they show up with a sledgehammer and say, sorry, we have to stop you guys from hunting today because the herd disappeared. Where did it go? This government should have caught this a lot sooner than to have to come here at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and tell the average people that they can't hunt anymore. But then they give the outfitters \$300,000. Here, we'll compensate you guys. You guys got \$300,000, it should take care of you. Are we going to compensate the aboriginal harvesters for taking away their right to hunt? I think that this government has to explain to the people of the Northwest Territories what action they took in regard to how this situation turned out to what it is.

More importantly, there is nothing mentioned in any of your discussions or documentation on industrial development impacts on this herd. This herd is in the centre of where the most exploration and development has taken place in the last decade in

the Northwest Territories. The calving grounds are just north of the major development area. You have trucks going up this ice road every six minutes. Six minutes. When the caribou is on this side of the road and a truck is passing every six minutes, well, the caribou is probably going to get a little hungry waiting to get across that road. Yet there are no road closures during that time. In our region of the Gwich'in Settlement Region we shut the harvesting down for two weeks so that the caribou can migrate across the highway. We do it because we feel it's part of our obligation to do so. But as government that's what you should have been doing.

The other thing that gets me is the number of outfitter tags that this government was giving away. I believe one outfitter had 120 tags. How many outfitters were there? Calculate all the amount of caribou that was taken by the outfitters and compare it to the aboriginal harvest that you're trying to restrict today. But you compensated them. But you aren't able to justify why you've taken away the subsistence ability of the aboriginal people.

With that, I will leave it at that. Have a good day.

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

#### **Mr. Yakeleya's Reply**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to follow up on Mr. Krutko's comments. My comments would be around the issue of the caribou and how this has come to the forefront in terms of the various different types of positions put by various people. I've always said to go back to the elders because the elders are the ones who were raised on the land, they know the land, they know the animals, and the elders have always told us how to behave on the land with specific animals and which animals have special gifts for the people. I'm not too sure how well that sits in with the non-native people in terms of our relationship with the animals. I talk about this because I ask this government in terms of how seriously have they taken the elders' views and consideration as to determine how to work with the animals. I say this because when I had a meeting in Colville Lake, the Colville Lake people have a very special relationship with the caribou. I asked the elders about that relationship and they told me their story about how they have that relationship with the animals and they say that the Department of ENR doesn't understand. The elders have always said, do not put collars on our animals. How is it if they would put collars on themselves and see how they feel? The animals are special, they said. Do not put collars on caribou. Still, they don't listen. Why would the elders tell us this? If they did tell us, how come ENR did not listen when our elders spoke about this important thing? That's what I want to talk about.

Elders grew up on the land. They know the land. Why haven't we put enough weight in terms of

seeking out their advice and guidance? It's just like we don't care for them. We don't want to listen to them. Only at specific times that we want to use them. That is not right. The area that we talked about, there are three major mines happening there. There has to be an impact with all the blasting of the rock. You fly over that area and you'll see the amount of work that's been on that land. You'll see the amount of activity that's happening. The blasting to dig a hole for diamonds. From my view it seems we're giving more weight to this economy, which serves a lot of people, but we're forgetting about the real people. And they've been here for thousands and thousands of years.

I read a book the other day called "The NWT Ice Pass Study" up in the Mackenzie Mountains where they found scientific evidence of caribou and weapons used 5,000 years ago by our people. That's rich traditional knowledge that our elders have and our people have. Yet we seem to give more credence and prudence to the scientific evidence. They are just finding out about what we already know. They're using that very strong evidence against our people.

The Dene Nation, my people, know about consultation. Why do you think we've had caribou for the last 5,000 years? They're still going to be here, they tell me. Has ENR talked to our elders in terms of this issue here?

The Dene Nation, through several meetings, talked about working out an agreement, working on the issues, getting resources. They know this ahead of time. I don't know why, I'm still trying to understand why the Minister jumped the gun, so to speak, in terms of putting a ban on hunting in this specific area thinking that it will be okay, that he can convince us. He hasn't yet convinced me why this ban is there. Now he's in issues dealing with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to work out a solution. And he says maybe a day or two, provided the First Nations people agree to a type of agreement that would be satisfactory. I hope there is a deal that will allow the people to harvest like they have done for thousands of years. Teach us about caribou.

This is totally, totally wrong in terms of how we go about building a relationship with our First Nations people. We hear different stories, we read in the press, they print different stories. We hear on the radio. The Minister tells us different things. Our leadership tells us different things. We're doing things differently that create a lot of hardship amongst ourselves. I spoke to one leader in Tulita. I just asked about how it sounds on the radio. He said if we continue this way whoever wins is going to create a lot of hardship for us. This is not about nation-building trust in terms of nation to nation. We have two governments, many governments, trying



to do what's good for the Northwest Territories, our land, Denendeh.

Mr. Speaker, even the old document of the Order-in-Council of 1960, I want to challenge the validity of it. That's old information. It shouldn't be used. The Government of Canada itself needs to come into play here. How do we know if the Bathurst herd is becoming endangered. There's Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West caribou coming into this zone. What happens when this herd comes outside of the zone? Is there strong evidence that this is Bathurst caribou? Do we know if it's the Bluenose-East or West, Ahiak? I'm not too sure.

Mr. Speaker, when you have this type of direction given by the department on a nation of people, it brings up lots of feelings for people. Mr. Krutko talked about it earlier, the first time aboriginal people get the right to vote in this wonderful world we call Canada. Prior to that, there were laws put for people like myself that we call Dene or Metis. There were laws for us that the Government of Canada will take care of us. There were laws to not organize ourselves in a political manner, to outlaw certain ceremonial events and activities. The biggest issue that we had was there was a law for educating children to assimilate them. They call it cultural genocide. Many of my people have experienced it. It was torture when they took us away and put us in these residential schools. That's the brunt of things. Now we come back and this thing about the ban and about aboriginal rights and treaty rights, it just resonates a lot, a lot of hurt feelings, a lot of angry feelings.

Today I have not yet been convinced by this government, this Minister that this is what needed to happen. I have trust in my people. I have trust in my elders. I have faith in my culture that my grandfather and his grandfather for thousands of years have managed our wildlife. I believe we can do it today. We don't need this type of process, this type of consultation. I feel that if we don't resolve this, that we're going to have a hard time getting the support of the aboriginal people on certain issues that are very important to us as the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Krutko talked about outfitters. There are about 10 outfitters in that zone and about four mines. That's a lot of caribou to look at when you look at 10 outfitters for the number of tags that have been issued.

Mr. Speaker, this issue has significant consequences and I think aboriginal people across Canada are paying close attention to this issue here. I think the territorial government needs to be paying closer attention as to how do we build relationships with our peoples in our communities. Caribou is our life. It's in our blood. Even my son wrote something this morning about caribou as his school work. They're teaching that at Mildred Hall

School, Dene Kede, about the animals. So it's important.

I speak for my people, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe, as I said before when my grandfather signed a treaty in 1921, we would come to this type of issue. He's too good of a man to let this kind of issue, something that we have to fight for as aboriginal people. I want to say to the Minister, I sincerely hope that he does come to a resolution with the YK Dene on a larger picture to how do we resolve this type of issue that's taking up so much of our time. It's valuable time, good time that we need to know where issues stand in the Northwest Territories today in regard to hunting caribou, rights, industrial development, who takes precedence in terms of dealing with this.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that people in the Sahtu who I spoke to, my grand chief, have given me the right to support our people in the Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah area in terms of this issue here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 12, replies to budget address. Item 13, petitions. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

### Notices of Motion

#### MOTION 10-16(4): RESOLUTION OF CARIBOU HARVESTING ISSUE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 8, 2010, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the Government of the Northwest Territories set a place and date to have an emergency meeting with the aboriginal people of the NWT to consider their consultative process and come to an agreement regarding the caribou; and further, that the Government of the NWT look at alternative measures to resolve the issue.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion he gave notice of earlier today. Are there any nays?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Nay.

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

### Motions

MOTION 9-16(4):  
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE  
TO FEBRUARY 8, 2010,  
CARRIED

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, February 4, 2010, it shall be adjourned until Monday, February 8, 2010;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to February 8, 2010, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 19, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Robert McLeod.

### First Reading of Bills

BILL 11:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 11 has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 20, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 10:  
EXEMPTION ACT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 10, Exemption Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals and replaces the existing Exemption Act. The categories of property that are exempt from seizure under the right of execution are described in contemporary language and are expanded to include types of property essential for subsistence of the debtor and his or her dependents. Transitional matters are provided for and Public Service Garnishee Act is consequentially amended. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 10 has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Nay!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 11.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Nay!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Do I hear any nays?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Nay! Nay!

**MR. SPEAKER:** I hear a couple of nays. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 2, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2009-2010; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act; Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act; Tabled Document 62-16(4), NWT Main Estimates, 2010-2011; and Minister's Statement 47-16(4), Transfer of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have several items to deal with: Bill 2, Bill 4, Bill 7, Tabled Document 62-16(4) and Minister's Statement 47-16(4). What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to continue with the Department of Health and Social Services

in Committee of the Whole and then move on to conclude Education today. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** With that, we'll take a short break and begin with the Department of Health.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if she'd like to bring in witnesses. Ms. Lee.

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

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I will now rise and report progress.

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

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering Tabled Document 62-16(4). I would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

---Carried

Item 23, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

### Point of Privilege

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of privilege and feel my privilege as a Member has been threatened in which I feel that a Member has the ability to do his job without being threatened.

Mr. Speaker, as I left the Chamber after requesting a short break in Committee of the Whole, as I walked out the back of the Chamber with the Premier, Minister Miltenberger, Mr. Robert McLeod and other Members of the Cabinet, after stepping out of the doors, I was told by Mr. Robert McLeod, I hope you feel good. As I walked away, Mr. McLeod called me a bitch. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that I will be bringing this issue into the House and I proceeded to the washroom to go to the washroom. Mr. McLeod came into the washroom and asked me what I said. I said I will be taking this matter into

the House. Mr. McLeod stated, "If the shoe fits, wear it."

Mr. Speaker, as Members of this House, we do not have to be threatened by any Minister or any Members of this House in doing our job. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, I believe as a table officer of this House, we should at least show some respect. As a Minister who you respect, all should hold up this House to the best standards that we can. By calling another Member this name is demeaning. It is belittling and, more importantly, it is a threat. Mr. Speaker, as a Member I feel I was threatened. Mr. Speaker, I will leave it to you to make a ruling on this matter. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I am going to allow for the debate on this point of privilege if anyone else wants to speak to it. The honourable Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was, as we left the House, an exchange of words, some proceeding as those outlined by the Member for Mackenzie Delta. Subsequently, I didn't catch all the exchange. I do know that we were coming out of the session. There was a fairly raised and elevated level of tension it seemed like. There was an exchange of words that followed into the washroom. I think it was an unfortunate turn of events. I hope this can be resolved. There was I don't think any intent on anybody's part. I didn't think anything was a threat. I saw it too. Tempers flare. A circumstance unfortunately escalated beyond where I think anybody wanted it to. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the point of privilege. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we left the Chamber, I felt that I made no threatening gestures. There was a heated exchange as we all have exchanges here in the Chamber, some a little more animated than others. If the Member feels that he was threatened, it was not my intent. I apologize for it. But we have to understand that the work that we do, sometimes there are things that we disagree on. There are things that happen in this Chamber. I showed poor judgment. I should have just took it for what it was and walked away from it, but we do have a lot of exchanges here in the Chamber. We have disagreements in and out of the Chamber. I don't feel that my words were threatening in any way. It was just a heated exchange between two Members. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the point of privilege. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly there are times where there is a

perception as to how we push or move or debate or work through issues that sometimes emotions do come to a level where we bite our tongue or we say something. Sometimes that is the nature of the business we are in here. We have some very good heated exchanges.

One time I had made apologies to Mr. Miltenberger when I made a reference to a dictatorship. I didn't feel good. However, this was done in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I guess what I want to say in terms of this type of discussion, there are only two people that know what happened. Mr. Krutko gave his view and Mr. McLeod gave his view. However, this is the House where we are able to rise above these types of issues here and not have the perception that stops us from doing our job on behalf of our people. That is not a good thing to have. After we leave the Chamber, work in an office, we work with all Members and Ministers especially in committee meetings or when we have meetings in our communities, that we are here to do our job on behalf of our people with no perceived threats or any type of things that happen that stops us from speaking on behalf of people.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the point of privilege. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did support the motion to report so that I could support my colleague Mr. Krutko from the Mackenzie Delta. Mr. Speaker, emotions were obviously running very high in this House today on the issue that was at hand. I heard Mr. Krutko speak with a great deal of emotion. Mr. Yakeleya speaks with a great deal of emotion. It is the nature of the work that we do that sometimes. That is the kind of impassioned debate and dialogue that takes place in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I supported Mr. Krutko to have the opportunity to raise this point of privilege at the earliest opportunity even though it meant delaying Committee of the Whole because I, myself, have been on the receiving end of comments from time to time, not lately mind you, but from time to time earlier on in my term by a Member that I perceived to be less than professional.

I do believe we, as Members, have an obligation to try to uphold a very high standard of professionalism and good conduct in how we treat each other.

I would also like to say to Minister McLeod that I do thank him very much for his very quick recognition of this exchange and his apology so as not to protract this matter. I thank him for having the good common sense and the humility to make an apology so quickly into this event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that we do, from time to time, rise on such issues in this House. It seems to be the nature of the beast, in that sense. As the particular area of privilege has been raised by Mr. Krutko, he mentioned that there were a number of us walking out, including myself, and there was the exchange of words.

For the record, as I was walking out of the Assembly itself, the House, Mr. Krutko made some comments on his way out and gestured in a way that may itself not been received as appropriate for what had happened. Mr. McLeod had just tried to advance a piece of legislation on one of his departments that had nothing to do with the debate that happened in this House. Mr. Krutko made mention that, as he left this Assembly, that I don't believe you even tried to ask for unanimous consent, and chuckled as he left the back of the Chamber. Mr. McLeod was already out and made reference and made some comments back. I didn't hear a response back and wasn't aware of what occurred at that point.

As well, we try to govern ourselves in this Assembly and I think that we all have to look at how we have discussion both in this House and outside the House, that some words may be meant to be on the light-hearted side, but because of the moment that it's taken or received, could be taken less or so in the sense of light-hearted and taken more seriously.

I, again, want to just put that for the record that there was an exchange and, as well, to Minister McLeod for coming back and apologizing as he had stated that there was no intention of a threat, but there was heated discussion and words shared, which he has apologized for. But I would say that we must all look at how we share our words. You want to talk about how we represent ourselves in this place. We must be fair on both sides of how we carry on the debate both inside and outside this floor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to add a very brief comment on this. First of all, for the record, MLA Krutko mentioned that there were Ministers, the Premier, Minister McLeod and Minister Miltenberger and other Ministers. I just wanted to say that I'm not trying to exclude myself, but just for the record...(inaudible)... that I was still in the Chamber when all of this happened. I was in the back lounge with MLA Beaulieu. So, obviously, that's the record. Well, we were talking. So I have no information whatsoever about what went on.

Now, I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, in my experience as an MLA for 10 years, I've had my share of raising a point of privilege. I've had situations where I've felt that my privilege to do my job and represent my riding as an MLA was breached by a lot of things. I had my share of people pressuring me and such, and that's a very important part of our ability to do our job, so I take privilege of being a Member very seriously. I trust, Mr. Speaker, that you will look at the facts and make sure that MLA Krutko's right to do his job is not in any way jeopardized. I have no doubt that MLA Krutko will continue to do his job, advocate for his people and speak on issues that matter to them. I'm not sure from the facts of the case that any of that had happened.

I just want to say, in closing, that exchanges do happen. We are passionate people. We believe in what we believe in. We want to do the best for our people. All kinds of heated exchanges do happen, but sometimes we do make a mistake. Sometimes we do say things that we would rather not have said. Sometimes things get misunderstood in the context of how it was said. I would like to just commend the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes for being the big man that he is. He's a very considerate man. I believe he has a very good working relationship with everybody here and he apologized, so I hope that this Speaker will take that into consideration when he is making his decision on this item. I'm glad, in a way, that we were able to put this on the floor and deal with this before we head out for the weekend. Hopefully, when we come back on Monday we can concentrate and get back to the business of the people. I believe that we will, because I believe that we all believe that this is important work to do and we'll get it done. Thank you.

#### **Speaker's Ruling**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Hearing no further comments on the point of privilege, colleagues, it's my duty as the Speaker, when a point of privilege is raised, to determine whether a prima facie breach of parliamentary privilege has occurred.

I have listened very carefully to all the Members that have spoken on this point of privilege. Mr. Krutko, I know, is very passionate about what he is saying. I've also heard from Mr. Robert McLeod in his apology to the Member for what actions took place, and I think is genuine in what he's saying how it happened.

I have spoken many times before session and encourage Members to respect the dignity of this institution and respect each other. What happened is a name calling, from what I've heard, although not one that I would encourage Members to take part in too much. We do want to respect each other and get the work that we have done. However, I do

not feel that a name calling constitutes a prima facie of privilege. So I am going to rule that there is no prima facie breach of parliamentary privilege here. Thank you, colleagues.

The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 6 on the Order Paper. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted.

#### **Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Charlie Furlong up in the audience. Charlie has been doing some treatments for cancer and we're happy to report that things are going really well and he's cancer free. So we're glad to hear that. Thank you.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 21.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. SPEAKER:** We will return to item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 2, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2009-2010; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act; Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act; Tabled Document 62-16(4) NWT Main Estimates, 2010-2011; and Minister's Statement 47-16(4) Transfer of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy, with Mr. Bromley in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order and ask what the wish of committee is. Sorry; we have before us consideration of Bill 2, Bill 4, Bill 7, Tabled Document 62-16(4) and Minister's Statement 47-16(4). What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee will continue the consideration of Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does committee agree that we will

continue consideration of Tabled Document 62-16(4), NWT Main Estimates? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. We'll start with a short break. Ten minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. We are considering Tabled Document 62-16(4), NWT Main Estimates, 2010-2011, consideration of Health and Social Services. I would like to ask the Minister if she'd like to bring in witnesses.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. I'd ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the House, please.

If the Minister would introduce her witnesses.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is deputy minister of Health and Social Services, Paddy Meade; and to my right is director of finance, Mr. Derek Elkin.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. Committee, we are on page 8-29, activity summary, community health programs, operations expenditure summary, \$85.067 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question with regard to contract services. There is a rather large increase in contract services from the revised estimates of 2009-10 to the main estimates of 2010-11. We go from \$8 million to almost \$13 million. I wonder if I could have an explanation for that increase, please. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase is the southern placement of children contract for \$1.3 million and \$2.91 million for residential...\$2.091 million for residential southern placement for adults. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks for the information. I guess it leads me to then ask whether or not this is an increase that we can continue to expect. Our actuals in 2008-09 were about the same, \$12 million. We then estimated quite a bit less in 2009-10 and now we've gone back up in 2010-11. So is \$12 million or almost \$13 million a better number in terms of our ongoing expenditures or is this a bit of an anomaly? I know it's hard to predict how many kids we are going to have to send out, but is this an indication of a trend, I guess, that we're going to continue to see?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** This is an area where expenditures are made on the basis of need. We place children and adults as they are needed. I can advise the Members that the numbers of clients have stayed quite consistent over the last number of years. There is a little bit of up and down, but there's not a general trend upwards.

What we have seen is an increase in costs of caring for these children and adults. Some of them are quite high needs and it's the rates that some of these facilities are charging us and they have all been going up, especially across Alberta. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** That certainly makes sense. The other question I had is in program delivery details and there is a very large jump between last year's revised main estimates and this year's budgeted mains. We go from \$20.5 million to just over \$26 million for adult continuing care services. Is there a specific reason for that? Is it a number of factors? If I could have an explanation, please. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I think I will ask the director of finance to explain that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Elkin.

**MR. ELKIN:** Thank you. The increase is primarily due to the incremental costs related to the territorial dementia facility and the Hay River assisted living facility, the ongoing costs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Elkin. That completes Ms. Bisaro's line of questions for now. Ms. Bisaro, did you have anything further? Moving on to Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question for the Minister. Some of the numbers on the people we have in care in southern placements and some of the numbers that I have seen are quite alarming. They have gone from 27 in 2004-2005 to 56 now. I think some of them have been repatriated back to the Northwest Territories at the Hay River facility, but I was just wondering if the Minister can comment on what efforts the department is making to try to get those individuals that are in southern care back into the Northwest Territories so they can be closer to their families. So if we are spending in some cases in excess of \$500,000 or \$600,000 a year to house somebody in a southern placement, it only makes sense that we look at bringing them back here and keep that money in the North, whether it is training in a local provider service or bringing somebody in to do it here, so that the money actually stays in the Northwest Territories. I think that is something that we have to pay attention to, Mr. Chairman, so I would like to hear what the Ministers plans are in that regard. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, the numbers of adults and children that we place in these institutional settings hasn't changed that much and I could give Members figures on that. I remember seeing that most recently. It is the cost of providing those services that has gone up.

With respect to the Hay River assisted living facility, we have, I believe, about 20 residents there and the department has worked very hard to look at all the people we have in southern settings to see who are eligible and who can be moved up and that depends on the person's care needs as well as the family's needs. So there have been case management meetings happening on each of those situations and we have been successful in moving some of the people in southern jurisdictions to Hay River assisted living facility as well. Some of the other ones that have moved into Hay River are those ones who would have gone south if we didn't have the place in Hay River. So there is a cost avoidance there.

So the answer to MLA Ramsay, I want to tell him that we do constantly review the cases of our residents we have in southern placements. Some of them are long term, some of them will probably never be able to come home. But I think there is about half of them, there are some who are more short term and we constantly review them to see if we need to send them south, because obviously we want to keep them north and keep them closer to home and be able to place them in our own setting.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I guess I am not supposed to say where I saw those numbers, but I saw them yesterday in a committee meeting. It was 27, I believe, in 2004-2005 and there was 56 this past year. That number of 56 has fallen somewhat; to, I believe, 49, as five or six of those individuals have been placed in the Hay River assisted living facility. So the numbers, I know the Minister says they are not going up, just the costs, but if we have gone from 27 to 49 in a span of five years, that is a pretty big increase and I think we need to realize that if there are any of these individuals that we can bring back to the Northwest Territories, we have to do that. Get them back here and keep the money in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take the Member's point and I stand to be corrected. I don't have the information from five years back, but I do have the information in front of me for 2008 and 2009 compared to this upcoming year. We had 51 adults in 2008-2009 for 15,000 bed days and for this year we project to have 52 for 11,900 bed days, so we are having about 4,000 less but the cost will be higher because of the costs going up per bed. For children, we had 49 youth in southern facilities, we expect to have 48 this year. Last year we had 13,629 bed days and this year we

expect to have less, 9,100, but once again the cost will not substantially go down so it is the cost per bed that is driving up the cost here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lee. Next on my list I have Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask a couple of questions on the current strategy for homelessness as well as emergency shelters. Of course, I am from a riding that has many small communities and these issues are raised, they are just as serious as the larger communities. I think I saw something in the Foundation for Change documents, something about addressing homelessness, even emergency shelters in the communities. Perhaps the Minister can fill me in on some of the details on how they are going to address these in the regions. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is responsible for two areas in this regard. One is family violence shelters, which is not necessarily a homelessness shelter but that might be the area in which you have seen some increase in funding as a part of our Strategic Initiatives committee and that money funds family violence shelters in Yellowknife, Hay River, Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik.

The homelessness programs in the department, we have three. We have two under homelessness. One is Homelessness Assistance Fund and small community homeless fund. Small community homeless fund, we have about \$200,000. Well, not about. We have \$200,000 for that and we assist communities to make minor renovations in places where they feel that they could have a homeless, not 24/7 shelter, but somewhere homeless people could drop into. This is done on an application-by-application basis and it gets fully subscribed very quickly. Homelessness Assistance Fund is used to assist those people who migrate into Yellowknife and they would like assistance to get back home. We use some of that money to address homelessness that way, because if they go back to their own homes and communities, then they do have a better support in terms of housing. Also we have emergency shelter funding under the department and we fund the Inuvik homelessness shelter, Centre for Northern Families day shelter and the SideDoor under that program. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I thank the Minister for providing some of those details and I was just wondering, like the community of Fort Simpson, I know that homelessness funds are used to purchase or assist clients in apartments, et cetera. I am not quite aware of emergency shelter and/or family shelter as well. That is something that we can certainly work towards. Combining all three in a

larger building would certainly make sense and in a place like Fort Simpson. Has the Minister seen any plans with regard to that for Fort Simpson being a regional community? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Chairman, in that issue, I think it would be helpful if the Member could... We have not received a proposal, that I am aware of, from any group or community government. We understand there are not as many NGOs in communities outside of Yellowknife so we do accept and consider applications from community organizations, community bands, the municipal governments. If they want to submit a proposal, we could work together with the organizations, perhaps through also the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority so we could discuss more on that and we could give him information on how they could access and start putting a proposal together. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Next on my list I have Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The document I am going to make reference to is put out by the Department of Health, 2006-07 document at my office here. It talked about the age group of 60 years and older as the fastest growing demographic in the Northwest Territories, this population here. Certainly, from 1996 to 2006 the population of seniors in the Northwest Territories increased by 46 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I want again just to speak to the Minister in terms of the care for seniors, or I refer to them as elders, in terms of the health policies in regards to having seniors come out of our communities in terms of good care, someone is taking care of them. The Minister and I are working on an issue here that I think she is going to look at something like this, but I have heard from numerous incidents where our elders were not given the proper care as, I think, I assume they would. However, I stand to be corrected on that.

I want to ask the Minister if she would review the policy for travel for elders, that it be mandatory to have someone escort them or to travel with them, someone who speaks their language, someone from the community, preferably, and that these elders do not leave on their own when they come to either Yellowknife or Edmonton to seek medical care.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Chairman, the topic that the Member is bringing up is the medical travel escorts. I think that is primarily what the Member is speaking to. As the deputy minister mentioned yesterday, that program is under in-depth review. The government spends about \$26 million a year on medical travel. It is one of the highest costing

programs we have. It is in our interest to make sure that it works, it does what it is supposed to do, that the people are served well. Our government has a policy that says that elders over a certain age and those who need physical support, mental support in that defined area and language support can have an escort. That is the policy. Sometimes applications of the policy get complicated.

I think our review should also look at how we make this program better in terms of escorts, because sometimes we have escorts come down and they kind of go missing in action too, so we need to make sure that we properly provide information to escorts as to what the expectations are and that they have to take their role seriously too. We are in the process of reviewing that. I would be happy to share that information with the Member, but I think what he's talking about is not necessarily the policy but the application of it. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** The Minister has indicated certainly some good points there in terms of the medical escorts into our health care system in terms of language, physical. I think that it needs to be stated very clearly, loud and clear, to the health centres to know that if an elder walks in and they are required to go to Yellowknife, Inuvik or Edmonton, that the first question on the list of questions, we'll have an escort for you who can work with you, not if you understand English or can you travel alone in snow. It should be with the elders, especially with the second language as English, that we are going to have someone there. Maybe I got my words mixed up, but I think that is a something that is mandatory that the elders are given an escort to take them to a community. I think we are going to deal with a lot of these headaches that we are dealing with right now in terms of the people are travelling on their own to large centres. So I do appreciate the Minister saying in terms of the in-depth review. I hope that we can come out of the in-depth review and say this is what we have that's clear marching orders for the health centre. I think that would put a lot of relief to people in our communities, knowing that this issue here is taken care of. I will work with the Minister in terms of how we go about this. It is very important and very critical. I hope that by the end of this Assembly, the Minister will bring forward a policy or strong marching orders.

Mr. Chairman, I want to also say that in terms of the Sahtu health authority, in terms of the administration, she talked on really good the application of programs and services under the Health and Social Services. The application of the program sometimes we have a different view of how things should be applied to and what application should apply to the program should be done. I'm starting to hear rumblings. Maybe I need to work with the Minister on this in terms of how the application of certain programs in the Sahtu health



authorities are administered and if there's... One is to look at some of these issues before they get to a critical point of he said, she said and we are at a standstill as to how we deliver programs. I have received a phone call that wasn't too good this morning in terms of our health board. I haven't had a chance to talk to Members of the health board, but I think I'm getting more phone calls in terms of our operations. So I want to see that we work with the Minister in terms of how we deal with these issues face on. The Minister could provide me with some ways as to how we could do this here. I know there are some suggestions. I would like to talk to her about it. However, it is unfair to me to say it right now because I have not yet had that in-depth discussion with her.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Chairman, it is absolutely fair for you to raise any issues you like. I am happy to respond to them here.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is really important to remember that, for the last four days, we have been talking about the importance of making sure that we use our Health and Social Services dollars wisely. We have a \$326 million budget. The needs and demands are endless. On any given day, I have at least a million dollar ask on my desk that I cannot meet. We do spend about \$1 million a day. It is a high cost business. We do a very good job, so when I say it is about application, it means we have programs set up and, as good as it might be, we do have hiccups.

But we have to remember that we are serving 40,000 people and I think for the vast majority of cases people are happy with our service, because I do get notes and letters from people who are thankful for the services they receive. I tabled two documents earlier this week, which is the satisfaction survey for hospital service and health centres. I would like to encourage the Members to look at that because there is some real grading from our public saying that they are, generally, getting good support. So when I say to Members it's about application, of course, sometimes people feel that they weren't treated as well as they have been. They have questions about what kind of diagnosis they had. They want to know what happened to their family. So we need to have a mechanism to make sure that those are responded to. I'm totally happy to be working and continue to work with the Member to improve our system, but that's what I mean when I say that.

The other thing is escorts for elders. We need to talk about who... We want to use medical travel in the best way possible, and some elders may not want an escort. I think MLA Bisaro mentioned that she's an elder already and I don't know if she would need an escort. Our elder population is the largest population and it's the highest growing population. What's important is we use our money for those

people who need it. We may need who's not an elder who needs support. We may have an elder who's able and they don't need an escort. It is important that when we are reviewing this service, that it is essential for the delivery of our health care that we look at what the needs are. That's what we mean when we say the right service for the right people at the right time. We generally support the elders, but we shouldn't be so inflexible that just because you're 60 but you speak English and you don't need an escort, you're going to get one. Then somebody who really needs it couldn't get it. I think that's always the adjustment we need to make. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lee. Just before I go to the next one, I have one comment from the chair. For the record, I believe it was Mr. Jacobson suggesting that Ms. Bisaro was, perhaps, an elder. Next on my list I have Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, currently the Standing Committee on Social Programs is undertaking a review of the Child and Family Services Act. I'm looking at the budget in this area and from our meetings that we're having so far with the stakeholders and staff, it's apparent that stakeholders don't feel that there's enough money in the system to help all the people that come to them. And it's fairly evident that social workers are handling too many cases at one time and it's causing, certainly causing some problems for the delivery of services that are necessary for family and children in the Northwest Territories. I don't see any substantial increases in the budget for community services, where I think most of our review will fall under the authorities and agencies, social workers and so on. Also, in the foster care where we hear a lot about the foster care. Again, there is no increase there, although the department has indicated there has been a little bit of a shift to where they're getting more aboriginal households to become foster parents. So that may be more of a shift there than an increase in cost, although there is a good thing about some extra money going into prevention and promotion.

So, I guess, just a question for the Minister is: does the Minister have a contingency plan for any of the recommendations that may fall out of the Child and Family Services Act review, which is scheduled to be tabled this fall?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That review is being undertaken by the motion of this House. I understand from just hearing from the committee members that they're having a very good review of this whole area and obviously the committee will report back to the House on their findings. Our department's approach, and my

approach with the deputy minister, has been that we are there to assist in any way, provide whatever information and resources that you may need. I am looking forward to what the committee has to recommend and at that time we will have to work together to work out the plan on how the recommendations can be implemented. Obviously, where there are dollar requirements, that will be the will of the House and we have to have that wide conversation here about how we go about making changes as recommended by the committee. I am looking forward to seeing the results and I do appreciate the committee's invitation to have more dialogue in that area. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I thank the Minister for that response. I just want to touch on a couple of areas of homelessness, near homelessness or whatever. I just wanted to group these two issues together and ask the Minister two questions. On the whole issue of homelessness in smaller communities, I think that we're continuing to have difficulty identifying homelessness in small communities. There is no provision in small communities for people that are homeless. So if you are homeless in a smaller community, essentially you just sleep on someone else's couch. It's not like an issue of being able to go somewhere into some sort of residence that is specifically built or designed for homeless people. I'm wondering if the Minister will be looking at the strategic initiative on homelessness maybe with the lens from the perspective of some of the smaller communities where homelessness may not be a visible thing, but it's very apparent in the small communities as people that don't have anywhere to go live with people where they're not very welcome, actually, but it happens anyway.

Also, as far as emergency family shelters... Just a second question, Mr. Chairman, if that's okay, or if you prefer I get a response and go to a second question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** It looks like Minister Lee is ready to respond. Should we give her the opportunity there? Minister Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, the homelessness budget we have is really popular. We usually get more applications than we have the money for. I think it is an area that we need to look to see how we can address that. I am talking to the Minister of the Housing Corporation to see how we can partner and put some energy into smaller communities. Yellowknife has been able to build a continuum of services for homelessness, but also... So that's an area that we need to do. But I need to say that our budget, if you notice, as we stated in the opening statement, has almost... I know it's a big money department and it looks like it had the biggest growth, but actually most of the growth is going to

labour contracts; it's going to the employees. But if you look at line by line, our money is not growing, really, in any areas. It's sort of staying in the same except for the dementia centre and assisted living. I mean, those are the highlights because those are big ticket items. This is why, once again, I need to tell you that we need to work together in how we change the way we deliver health and social services so that we can move the money around, because we understand that it's hard to find new money and the demands will not go down. I don't know if that answers MLA Beaulieu's question, but we just need to keep on working to see how we do what we do better because the money... There is always more demand than money available. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I would like to thank the Minister for that answer. I think for the interest of time here, I will ask two quick questions. One is that to get a little bit of a reason as to why home care almost dropped by a million dollars when what I am seeing in the communities I represent is a greater need for home care and also something of a family shelter. Right now it is difficult to set up any sort of family shelters in very small communities because of the nature of that type of work. It is difficult to place families in a shelter in the community and there is no actual infrastructure in place for that, but there is infrastructure in the larger centres where we might be able to see some sort of proposals from larger regional centres that support the smaller communities when it comes to this type of operation. I guess I am wondering if there has been or if there will be proposals coming for some sort of family shelters but there isn't a substantial increase in that budget either, but my main interest for this is to ask why the budget dropped so immensely. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** The Member is correct that there has been that decrease for home and community care and that is because that money was coming from THAF funding and now it is being reduced. What I need to say once again, and it is really important and we are very committed to that, and I am committed to that, and that is what has been occupying my mind for a long time, which is home care and community care and front-line services is what is really important, especially as our senior population increases. We want to be able to support seniors to live an independent life and in order to do that we need to increase and expand services so that keeps them away from institutional settings. We need to find ways to adjust to this, and to do that we need to make structural change.

Once again, this is all related because we haven't seen this, we have to prepare for the THAF funding coming to an end. We need to prepare for how do we adjust to that so we need to make systematic

changes so that we somehow allocate the money appropriately. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lee. Committee, we are on the same page, 8-29. Excellent comments. Next I have Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question. When we discussed the business plans, the information that was provided to committee was that the Government of the Northwest Territories was revising the homeless framework. I think that it was supposed to be done sometime within the next six to eight months, but I am not sure when it was intended to be done. I wonder if the Minister could advise what the revising of this framework means and when we can expect a revised framework. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't remember exactly when that was but I could tell, I mean when that was stated, I could tell the Member that this is a cross-department initiative between Housing, ECE and Health and Social Services, so I would be happy to provide the Member with more info on that. That is about what I remember right now about what we talked about. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I am not quite sure that I understood what I heard. There is a trio of departments that are looking at this particular framework, but what information is the Minister going to give me? I am looking for a revised framework. If it is not being revised, then that is fine, then tell me that. But when will we get this revised framework, if it is indeed being revised? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I was going to ask if the Member could give me more information about exactly what she is looking for because it is still not clear to me exactly, maybe she could help me with more detail. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I can advise the Minister that it is on page 33 of the Health and Social Services business plan around about the middle of the page.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Just for clarification, Ms. Bisaro, is that the budget or the business plan?

**MS. BISARO:** That is the business plan, Mr. Chairman, and if the Minister needs to get back to me, that is fine.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro, and I should have identified you. Minister Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do have a copy of the business plan with me, but I am now looking at page 33 and I don't see it, so I think it would be best if I could talk to her and see if we could give more information to each other.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lee. Next on my list I have Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions for the Minister. The first question is more retrieving information from the Minister in terms of non-government organizations. Can the Minister provide to me the list of NGOs in the Northwest Territories? Can she break them down maybe by the regions or health authorities for me?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a huge list. It would take us weeks to get that. I am wondering if, because there are many, many NGOs, non-government organizations, whether it is social services, seniors, humanitarian, environmental, sports. So I am wondering if he could be more specific about exactly what he would like us to get. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I do apologize, Mr. Chairman, for that to the Minister. Let me rephrase my question. I mean more specific to the Department of Health and Social Services.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Could I ask if he is interested in the ones that we have direct dealings with and perhaps provide funding to? Also I need to clarify that we understand that they are not typical NGOs in communities and lots of our funding goes to community councils and community organizations and municipalities in all regions. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I would leave it in the good judgment of the Minister in terms of what she provides to me and if I could get that information sometime in the short time frame here. If I need more, I will come and see the Minister in terms of what more information I need. I do appreciate the Minister's offering to look at this. I would like to see if I could get this sometime in the next couple of days.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Will do.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lee. Committee, we are on page 8-29. Excuse me. We have Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in terms of looking at emergency shelters for my region, we had looked at several possibilities of having emergency shelters in my community yet we seem to be stumbling over policies or different programs or services and we just can't get it into our region even though we have been asking for it. So I guess I want to ask the Minister is that something that we can look forward to putting emergency shelters in the Sahtu.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that the Members and Members' groups have applied on some funding under the homelessness fund and it was fully subscribed by the time that came in this fiscal year, but we will resubmit it for next year, which is beginning in a few short months. So hopefully that application will have better luck. That's how our program works at the moment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Once again, we are on page 8-29, activity summary, community health programs, operations expenditure summary, \$85.067 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** We're on page 8-30, activity summary, community health programs, grants and contributions, contributions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. On page 8-31, information item...Excuse me. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** On 8-30, Mr. Chair, in terms of the prevention and promotion funding to the authorities or agencies or NGOs, I'm looking more at the health promotion activities in terms of the high increase in diabetes in our communities, especially to retail outlets such as the Northern Store, the Co-op. Is there anything that this department is working with the retail facilities in terms of promoting healthy food/healthy eating and discouraging non-healthy foods such as lots of candy, pop and that kind of stuff there that I know is a money-maker, but is also hurting our children. Is that something within the promotion?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier this week, I think it was yesterday, I made a statement in the House about Drop the Pop, where we did indicate that we were working with the grocery stores across the Territories to help them be our partnerships. We can't directly tell them what to sell and not. I think the best way is to encourage them to be our partners and understand that there will always be some people who will make choices for pop rather than something healthier, but as much as possible we would work with our partnerships and grocery stores would be one of them. We are expanding our investments into Healthy Choices Framework which deals with healthy eating and such. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Once again, committee, we are on page 8-30, activity summary, community health programs, grants and contributions, contributions. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 8-31, information item, community health programs,

grants and contributions, continued, \$85.126 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Just to repeat, that was \$65.126 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. Page 8-32, information item, community health programs, active positions. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much. Just for the record, the reason for the increase in personnel, Mr. Chair?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** That's the new position for Healthy Choices Framework and that's the health promotion and healthy eating. That's one of our strategic initiative investments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Committee, we are 8-32, information item, community health programs, active positions. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 8-33. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a question here in relation to funding for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority. I wonder if the \$69.5 million for that authority includes any development of a Stanton Master Plan for renovations. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it does not.

**MS. BISARO:** I have spoken in my general comments about the need for Stanton to be redeveloped, redesigned, refurbished. I think the Minister knows as well as anybody, it's a 20-year-old building and we need to get planning sooner rather than later. It's our only territorial hospital. When can we expect that there will be money for the hospital for the Stanton hospital to do the development of a master development plan? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Even though there isn't any planning money, there is a lot of work being done on that issue. I would just like to get the deputy minister to give an update on where we are on that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. I'll call on Deputy Minister Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** The original work in Stanton looked at services in the current state and the issue is how we push greater services out to the community and we use technology to support some of that. Some of the services also have to be looked at. How can we move some services, for example, to Hay River? How can we use our physicians in a different way to mobilize? So that work on the real adjusted service plan under Foundation for Change has begun with the CEOs and myself, also with the medical directors and a few directors around how we'll actually have the ability. What services can we continue to do? What other services and how is the best way to deliver it? So the initial planning before you get into master planning for the capital purpose has started. They will dovetail at some point and part of the medical review is also going to give us input into what kind of services we are actually moving people for, how we can better do some of those here or do support community to manage them. So it's very complex. I would suggest that it's probably a year out before we can start to marry that up with the capital planning process. That again is a different process, so I can't say when that would fit on a master plan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. One last question, then, or a comment, I guess. I want to encourage, as strongly as possible, the Minister to very seriously consider putting money into the next year's capital budget to get some of this planning for the building done. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. A comment there. Next on my list is Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Just with regard to page 8-33 -- I believe we are on that page -- there is a \$700,000 reduction in the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority. I was just wondering if the Minister knows what would be one or a couple of the biggest single contributing factors in the decline in funding.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can tell all the Members that the only reduction we have through the system is the THAF funding. The government initiative to consolidate fuel costs, we are transferring \$7 million to Public Works. So some of that will come out of all of the authorities.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** That reasoning doesn't make sense, because some authorities actually go up in funding and some remain the same. So I'm not quite sure about that answer. The only reason I'm answering is I didn't want to see a reduction of programs and services in the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority. Any other explanation from the Minister, Mr. Chair?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Yes, I understand what he's saying. We could provide him with a breakdown of exactly what that \$600,000 is, but what I did say is correct, I believe, but I will give him a breakdown. Each authority had their own fuel costs imbedded into their budget; now it will be transferred out. THAF funding had a different impact for different authorities, whether it's the Midwifery Program in Smith, the Home Care Program was spread into three or four different authorities, nurse practitioners were in different areas, STI nurse was in Yellowknife health, and some of the physician money out of THAF was all over the place. Really, there's no other reduction than the fuel cost transfer and THAF, but the breakdown will be different so I will provide the Members with that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lee. Committee, we're on page 8-33, information item, details of funding allocated to health and social service authorities.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Page 8-34, information item, lease commitments - infrastructure.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 8-35, information item, lease commitments - infrastructure, continued. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask about the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority. They have a bunch of lease arrangements here with the health office program space there. Is this a one-year lease? I know you're building a consolidated clinic in Yellowknife here, so these leases are for one year then?

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know which one is which, but for the one we are building in Yellowknife I would hope that's not a one-year lease because we have invested in renovating and we expect that clinic to do the work that four other clinics have been doing. We have different leases in different communities for our office as well as health centres. The one in Yellowknife, I'm told, is a 10-year contract. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lee. Committee, we're on page 8-35. Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was some talk, I guess, about moving some of the administrative staff out of Stanton and into other office space. I think some of that has started, whether they go over to that new, used to be the old Extra Foods building on the corner of Range

Lake Road and Old Airport Road. That was one area.

I've also raised in the past the issue that the medical clinic is woefully inadequate for the programs that it's delivering. The one I'm talking about is Stanton Medical Clinic next to McDonald's. I believe the Minister said last year during budget deliberations that the department was going to be looking at future requirements for space for that medical clinic. I'm just wondering if she could give us an update on where exactly those discussions are at in trying to get some more space for that medical clinic. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** The Member is right; the finance section of the hospital is in the process of moving out to Ice Plaza, the new retail outlet upstairs. It's taken longer than we would like for the renovations, but hopefully they will be able to move soon.

With respect to the medical clinic and every other function at the hospital, that is under review. A master development is not just a blueprint, a floor plan, but it is a real vision about what the Stanton Territorial Hospital will be. We anticipate with the building and opening of the Territorial Dementia Centre and the consolidated clinic, it would have a direct impact on how the services will be delivered at Stanton. For example, previously the emergency area was in real tight space and that might actually change in light of the consolidated clinics that we would open with extended hours, for example. Having lab and radiology, or X-rays, being done downtown could change the function of that also. Stanton Hospital is a territorial hospital and the design of the master plan and the functions at that hospital will be determined by not just at Stanton, but by all of the health authorities. So that is very much in my discussions with the Joint Leadership Council.

We are reviewing the medical travel, we are reviewing the specialist clinic, and all that the DM is working on right now with Stanton. That will all be placed into it. In the House we have made a commitment to MLA Ramsay and others that we expect to have the plan done within two years, so we are working on that. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** In addition to that, the government has done some work on an office space requirement. It was done by the program review office. Given what you're spending on leasing office space in this new place... I know the Department of Health has some floors downtown in the Centre Square Mall as well. How is the department involved in any discussions, government-wide, to be a part of the new office building that the government's proposing be built here in Yellowknife and have any of those discussions taken place? I

do believe that there's some land at Stanton, and I've talked about this before. If you look at health care centres in southern Canada, oftentimes they have a building that's an administrative office utilized for office and administrative staff next to the health care facility. It would only make sense to me that if we do have the land out there and we're looking at building an office building, why we wouldn't coordinate the health care workers, the ones downtown, the ones that are going to be over at this new place, and put them all under one roof. I think it was about 6,000 square metres that the government was proposing be constructed. I don't know if it can be done on that site or not, but I think that's something that we should be at least looking at or having some discussions about. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I can tell you that my deputy minister is part of that office space review and she will be putting input into that and we are involved. Secondly, absolutely, the hospital owns all the space so when it comes to planning for the building, that would be, obviously, in the equation. I mean, they would look at the entire parking lot and all the surrounding areas to see how they would design the facility. I need to say, once again, that it's the function before the form. We are trying to determine the functions of the hospital. That is the most important part of that. That's why it's taking longer than just hiring an architect and saying build us a 20,000 square foot building. We need to know what's going to be in it, and it's in flux. This is what's taking time. I will be interested in consulting with the Members as we go forward on that. We are doing a massive review of what that hospital should do in the coming years. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I do look forward to that. It seems every year that the Minister, or whoever happens to be the Minister of Health at the time, says exactly the same thing. That you're looking at Stanton; they're going to look at the programs that are delivered there; they're going to look at the space utilization. They're going to do all that work, and here we are in 2010 and the Minister is saying the exact same thing I've heard for the past six years. You know, the Master Development Plan fell off the rails. I know they've got the Foundation for Change. I guess I have to remain somewhat optimistic that at some point in time we are going to get to a point where we can make some substantial changes to that hospital. I guess I'm going to have to wait and see if that actually does happen, but I'm not going to hold my breath, Mr. Chairman.

On the consolidated clinic in Yellowknife, I just wanted to ask the Minister: when exactly is that facility slated to open and what will the overlap of the other operating clinics in downtown Yellowknife be with the new clinic opening up? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The clinic is slated to open on April 1<sup>st</sup>, provided that

everything is going well. I think they are. I haven't heard any other issues. The other clinics are expiring within two to six months after the new clinic opens. It was designed that way and it was planned that way. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Committee, we're on page 8-35, information item, lease commitments – infrastructure, continued. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 8-36, information item, work performed on behalf of others. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. I have one question to the Minister here in terms of this page here. It's health services contribution agreements funding, prevention and treatment. There are programs listed. I wanted to ask the Minister, I know she wrote to me about the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program. We receive about, I say we, the Department of Health and Social Services receives about \$375,000. Approximately \$280,000 is allocated to southern addiction treatment options for aboriginal clients and I think that's good to have that there. The remaining funds are used for focusing on addiction training in the communities and regions. Right now I'm hearing from my region that several of our aboriginal mental health workers are having some real issues with staying on with the job and working in the communities. I'm not too sure, that's why I say there are lots of things that need to happen and I'm not too sure if it's because of the authority now is under a government health authority. Before it used to be under a non-government agency. I'm just very concerned that we might lose about four good people in my region if things are not being looked at immediately. I want to make note of that under this section that lots of things that the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, I don't know if it's an aboriginal tobacco control strategy, things like that. I just want to make note to the Minister that we need to pay attention to some of the things that are happening and I hope we can resolve some of these issues.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you. I have listened to him and I will follow up with him and see what we can do.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Moving on, committee, we're on page 8-36, information item, work performed on behalf of others. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 8-37, information item, work performed on behalf of others, continued. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 8-38, work performed on behalf of others, continued. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 8-39, information item, work performed on behalf of others, continued, \$20.26 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. We will now return to page 8-7, department summary, operations expenditure summary, \$325.825 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Information item, infrastructure investment summary, page 8-8. We've done that already. Thank you, committee. So we've agreed on page 8-7, the operations expenditure summary. Does committee agree that this concludes the Department of Health and Social Services?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank the witnesses and the Minister and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses from the House. Mahsi. I'd like to call on Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Chairman, I wish to move that we report progress.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** I will rise and report progress.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 62-16(4), NWT Main Estimates, 2010-2011, and would like to report progress. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

---Carried

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

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Monday, February 8, 2010, 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. Replies to Budget Address (Day 7 of 7)
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
  - Motion 10, Resolution of Caribou Harvesting Issue
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 2, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2009-2010
  - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act
  - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act
  - Tabled Document 62-16(4), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2010-2011
  - Minister's Statement 47-16(4), Transfer of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy
22. Report of Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
24. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.