



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

6th Session

Day 7

16th Assembly

HANSARD

Friday, May 13, 2011

Pages 6589 - 6612

The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker
Hon. Paul Delorey
(Hay River North)

Mr. Glen Abernethy
(Great Slave)

Mr. Tom Beaulieu
(Tu Nedhe)

Ms. Wendy Bisaro
(Frame Lake)

Mr. Bob Bromley
(Weledeh)

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
(Hay River South)

Mr. Robert Hawkins
(Yellowknife Centre)

Mr. Jackie Jacobson
(Nunakput)

Mr. David Krutko
(Mackenzie Delta)

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

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

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

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

Mr. Kevin Menicoche
(Nahendeh)

Hon. Michael Miltenberger
(Thebacha)
Deputy Premier
Government House Leader
Minister of Finance
Minister of Health and Social Services
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities
Minister responsible for Seniors

Mr. Dave Ramsay
(Kam Lake)

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

Mr. Norman Yakeleya
(Sahtu)

Vacant
(Range Lake)

Officers

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Mr. Tim Mercer

Deputy Clerk
Mr. Doug Schauerte

Principal Clerk of Committees
Ms. Jennifer Knowlan

Principal Clerk, Operations
Ms. Gail Bennett

Law Clerks
Ms. Sheila MacPherson
Ms. Malinda Kellett

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER.....	6589
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	6589
13-16(6) – Deh Cho Bridge (M. McLeod).....	6589
14-16(6) – Strong Community Governments (R. McLeod).....	6589
15-16(6) – Parks and Visitor Facilities (B. McLeod).....	6590
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	6591
Small Community Employment Strategy (Beaulieu)	6591
Gaps in Social Service Programming Related to Substance Abuse (Ramsay).....	6592
Exemption of MLAs in Access to Information Legislation (Groenewegen).....	6592
Congratulations to 2011 Nahendeh College Graduates (Menicoche).....	6593
“Made in the NWT” Branding Program (Hawkins).....	6593
GNWT Withdrawal from the Yellowknife Social Issues Committee (Abernethy)	6594
Supporting Secondary School Students in Nunakput (Jacobson).....	6594
Early Childhood Development Framework as Integral to Aboriginal Student Achievement (Bromley).....	6595
GNWT Withdrawal from the Yellowknife Social Issues Committee (Bisaro)	6595
Commitment to Health Care Services in Small Rural Communities (Krutko).....	6596
Entrepreneurial Initiatives Undertaken in the Sahtu (Yakeleya).....	6597
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	6597
ORAL QUESTIONS.....	6598
NOTICES OF MOTION.....	6608
5-16(6) – Establishment of Mobile Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program (Yakeleya).....	6608
NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS	6608
Bill 12 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 6, 2010-2011.....	6608
Bill 13 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012.....	6608
Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012	6608
Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Deh Cho Bridge Act.....	6608
Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act	6608
Bill 17 – An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act.....	6608
Bill 18 – An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act.....	6608
Bill 19 – Cost of Credit Disclosure Act	6608

Bill 20 – Vital Statistics Act.....	6608
MOTIONS	6609
4-16(6) – Revocation of Appointment to the Executive Council (Bisaro).....	6609
FIRST READING OF BILLS	6609
Bill 11 – An Act to Amend the Public Service Act.....	6609
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	6609
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	6610
ORDERS OF THE DAY	6610

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Friday, May 13, 2011****Members Present**

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

The House met at 10:06 a.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good morning, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 13-16(6):
DEH CHO BRIDGE**

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide Members with an update on the Deh Cho Bridge.

Mr. Speaker, in the past six months two major reports have been released: The Levelton Report and the Auditor General's report. The Levelton Report was a review of the Deh Cho Bridge phase 1 substructure design and construction. The report confirms that once work to address some minor deficiencies is complete, the phase 1 works are structurally sound. The Department of Transportation has developed an action plan that is addressing all of the issues identified in the report.

The Auditor General's report has made a number of recommendations, which we have accepted, and provided overall assurance and comfort that the bridge is safe and is being built to the required standards.

Currently, the contractor is working on the south side of the river. Steel truss sections continue to arrive on site and their assembly is ongoing. Once the river is free of ice, the contractor will reinstall the south side work-bridge and temporary bents or supports. The contractor will then launch the truss on the south side and install the towers and cables to support the centre span.

Mr. Speaker, as I reported in the last sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the contractor has expressed uncertainty about the completion date because critical bridge steel components arrived late. At the time, the impact on the construction schedule was unclear, but there was an expectation that the contractor could make up the lost time. It was also

indicated that the schedule is a contractor responsibility and that additional information would be available in the spring, once more information was known about the progress achieved during the winter. We continue to emphasize that safety and quality are of utmost importance as this work proceeds.

Mr. Speaker, the contractor has indicated that completion could be delayed. Information provided by the contractor indicates that the superstructure trusses, towers and cables were not completed during the past winter because of the late arrival of steel. As a result, certain weather-sensitive construction activities, such as paving, constructing concrete curbs and grouting of deck panels, are unlikely to begin before winter. Our environment is not one that is conducive to conducting these construction activities in the winter.

Mr. Speaker, we're asking the contractor to provide us with a revised schedule that takes into account fully the events to date and to substantiate the reasons. We will examine this closely to determine what steps to take next. Our primary concern is that the bridge is built safely and to the highest standards so that it can perform as expected during its 75-year design life without unnecessary added maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, the precise impact of a possible delay on the total capital cost of the project cannot be determined at this time. The scope of work will not change significantly, however, so we are not anticipating there will be any additional capital costs to complete construction.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT's focus is on completing the Deh Cho Bridge without compromising either quality or safety. It is well-designed and will meet or exceed Canada's National Bridge Code in all respects throughout the 75-year design life. It will be a vital link that will benefit NWT residents for many years to come.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 14-16(6):
STRONG COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS**

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak about the

value of strong community governments in the Northwest Territories.

Responsive community governments are critical to support healthy, safe, and vibrant communities. To assist the community governments in their efforts, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs works closely with the NWT Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT to provide training, resources, and opportunities for community governments to work with and learn from each other.

The NWT Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT are key stakeholders in the development of the current legislative and policy framework that has provided community governments the opportunity to expand and apply their full authority as municipal governments.

Most recently, these organizations partnered with and supported MACA with the implementation of new responsibilities for the development and implementation of capital projects. With this policy shift, community governments are able to make their own decisions and develop their own infrastructure to meet the needs of the residents. They have also been able to leverage other funds made available through federal infrastructure programs, such as the Building Canada Plan and Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, to pursue new infrastructure projects that would not have been viable without these funding opportunities.

Community governments are investing in core infrastructure that benefits the health and safety of their residents.

There are examples of this progress in every community. Residents benefit from new water and waste facilities, new office buildings, and new recreation infrastructure. Thanks to this new approach, community governments are planning and implementing infrastructure projects that best meet the needs and priorities of their residents.

Community governments, through such mechanisms as integrated community sustainability planning, are engaged in long-term planning so that they can minimize the impact of staff turnover and maximize opportunities to make strategic investments to sustain local operations over the long term. The NWT Association of Communities has been integral to these efforts by expanding their service to support strategic and energy planning, and by identifying and mitigating the impacts of climate change on community governments.

MACA's partnership with the two organizations provides a commitment to, and focus on, continuing to build capacity in community governments. Through a variety of programming such as the

Public Sector Capacity Building Initiative and partnering on the delivery of training opportunities to recruit and retain community government staff, communities will benefit over time as the stability and continuity of community government administrative staff increases. Venues such as the bi-annual governance conferences sponsored by MACA and the annual general meetings of the NWT Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT provide opportunities to learn from other community council and staff about what is working in communities and to share successes with their peers across the Territories.

I would like to commend the work done by all 33 community governments, our partners at the NWT Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT in working with us to advance the 16th Legislative Assembly's goals of sustainable, vibrant, and safe communities in the NWT.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 15-16(6):
PARKS AND VISITOR FACILITIES

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every summer thousands of visitors come to Northwest Territories parks and campgrounds. The priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories is to keep our parks and visitor facilities in top condition to ensure these visitors have a memorable and enjoyable experience.

The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to make improvements and investments in parks and visitor facilities throughout the Northwest Territories. By making these improvements, we are encouraging visitors to stay longer and explore the tourist opportunities the Northwest Territories has to offer. This supports the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of a diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices.

The Western Arctic Visitor Centre in Inuvik has recently undergone a refurbishment, and major renovations were completed at the Fort McPherson Visitors Centre.

We have completed major renovations and improvements to several parks throughout the Northwest Territories. These include new or improved hiking trails, better interpretive signage, improved RV services, including sewage drop-off and additional electrical service.

In the Deh Cho, visitors to Sambaa Deh Falls Territorial Park can now enjoy spectacular views from a new viewing platform. New kitchen shelters

have been built so visitors have a place to prepare and enjoy their picnic or barbeque.

As part of our commitment to green technology, we are proud to have introduced solar electricity at the new Sixtieth Parallel Visitor Centre. Since last spring we have been using solar hot water in shower buildings in Fred Henne Territorial Park, as well.

One of the most visible improvements is the brand new visitor centre at the 60th Parallel. This new facility provides an excellent first impression for visitors entering the Northwest Territories on Highway No. 1. Through interactive digital displays, arts and crafts exhibits, and much more, the centre provides visitors with information about experiences and activities in all Northwest Territories communities. This information will encourage people to explore our smaller northern communities. The fair distribution of benefits as widely as possible amongst communities and regions is one of the fundamental principles of Tourism 2015, A New Direction for a Spectacular Future.

We will be celebrating the grand opening of the visitor centre on June 2nd, and I would like to invite all of you to attend the opening of the new facility, which will include the unveiling of our new 60th Parallel welcome sign.

We have invested in our parks staff and contractors. These professionals work tirelessly to keep park users safe and ensure everything is in good working order. The comfort and safety of our visitors is of utmost importance to our parks officers. This summer they will have new uniforms that will make them visible to visitors as parks employees.

Mr. Speaker, our parks staff are one of our greatest assets. That is why we have invested in enhanced training programs this year. We know this additional training will ensure the parks staff have the skills and ability to maintain a safe environment for everyone to enjoy our parks. These investments have been made under the Maximizing Opportunities Strategic Initiative. They will help to ensure the beauty of our parks and facilities for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that two of our parks and visitor attractions have been recognized in the 2011 Readers Choice Awards from RV West Magazine: Twin Falls received a Platinum award for Favourite Attraction; Silver went to Fred Henne Territorial Park for Favourite Overall RV Destination.

I hope you and your families have an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful parks and visitor facilities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SMALL COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

MR. BEAULIEU: [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the government and the Committee on the Sustainability of Rural and Remote Communities for all their work in trying to bring some equalization to the small communities. One item I am particularly pleased with is the Small Community Employment Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I've had an opportunity to review the documents on all three employment programs. Although I'm happy with the intent, I believe that some changes must be made to the program.

Firstly, Mr. Speaker, some small communities do not have career development officer-type positions but do have client service officers. In Tu Nedhe the client service officers work half time. I feel they should be filling the role of the career development officers during the 40-week period these programs will run. These half-time positions could be used on a full-time basis for those 40 weeks. Mr. Speaker, this could be a part of the overall Employment Strategy.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the program should be delivered at the community level as much as possible. Also during the delivery, local governments, Aboriginal governments, local businesses, should all be fully engaged.

Mr. Speaker, I see these programs as a key to providing key positions such as pre-school teachers, daycare workers and environmental workers. Mr. Speaker, each of the community governments could utilize these positions and these positions would have far-reaching positive impacts.

Mr. Speaker, it is slowly becoming common knowledge that the success of students from K to 12 is increased by being enrolled in the preschool. Therefore, if this government is serious about increasing graduation numbers in small communities, this is an example of optimal spending for the programs.

Mr. Speaker, as I've stated many times in this House, employment rates are a huge issue in small communities, and this government is responding with these programs. Let's engage the leaders to ensure it is done right from the outset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GAPS IN SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMMING
RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some very scary things happening on the streets of this city. That's why it's so important for our schools, Social Services and the police to do the right thing when they are faced with young people whose lives are seriously at risk. It can be the difference between saving a life and sending a youth down a long and dangerous slide, one that they may never get out of.

Only days ago we had a young man, only 16 years old, pass away in a downtown alley. We should take this to heart, Mr. Speaker, as this young man's family and friends have. It's any parent's worst nightmare, and many parents out there are worried, and with good reason, Mr. Speaker.

I recently heard from a mother who is so afraid for her 16-year-old daughter, she doesn't know what to do. She's already turned to school officials, Social Services and the RCMP, with disturbing results.

Two years ago her daughter was a top notch student, and now this, and I'd like to quote her mother: "To date she has missed 270 days of school. She is drinking, doing drugs, smoking cigarettes, stealing, and doing much harder drugs than I thought, and at one point I lost my temper and hit her. I'm not proud that I did this. So we went to Social Services."

She wanted to put her daughter in treatment. Instead, says her mother, "I was told that I had to let her make her own decisions. I then asked about my 12-year-old son whom she verbally and physically abuses. I was told that I needed to protect him and remove him from the home after school. Why would I punish my son for my daughter's behaviour? I was told that if I hit my daughter again, they would charge me. I was unaware just how bad it was until Social Services began to investigate me."

Mr. Speaker, Social Services actually interviewed the mother's business contacts, her family, her fiancé and her son. Eventually they offered to pay for her daughter to stay in another home with responsible adults, if the mother could identify one. She did not think this was the right thing to do, and who can blame her? She wants help; she's not trying to foist her daughter or her troubles on someone else, but she didn't get help from Social Services when she asked for it as an honest, forthright mother with nowhere else to turn. Instead, they put her livelihood at risk and multiplied her stress level.

Mr. Speaker, this mother knows what she's talking about. She's a recovered addict herself, drug-free for 13 years.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now there's no solution in sight. Her daughter is falling through the cracks in our support system and it could happen to anyone. Believe me, it is tearing families apart in this city. It is happening to many others.

As a government we must do a better job at filling in these gaps and services before any more youth are lost to the streets of this city. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EXEMPTION OF MLAS IN ACCESS TO
INFORMATION LEGISLATION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As MLAs we are often called upon to advocate on behalf of constituents for a wide variety of issues with literally every department of this government; everything from contracting processes to delays in medical travel, approvals to student financial assistance issues. Very often extensive information is shared with MLAs by constituents who do not have ready access to the answers, solutions or remedies that they are seeking. I've been an MLA for 16 years and see this is a large part of the constituent work that it is my duty to perform.

In recent months, upon making inquiries regarding medical issues, education issues, financial support issues, MLAs have been told that the information that they seek on behalf of constituents is confidential and no information can be released to the MLA because of privacy concerns. There needs to be a balance in the requiring of consent forms. I don't think that departments can just willy-nilly keep gobs of confidential information on the desks of MLAs just because they request it. However, many requests contain details of a situation that could only be known to the MLA if it had been shared with them by the constituent in the first place.

We have to be careful that the requirement of a consent form is not an excuse to delay, postpone, or defer responding to the constituent's request. In the case of emergency situations such as medical travel, we could be in Yellowknife and the constituent may be in their community with no access to a fax or e-mail and have only conveyed the request or concern verbally to their MLA.

Section 48 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act lists the circumstances in which a public body can disclose personal information. One of those circumstances is to a Member of the Legislative Assembly who has been represented by an individual to whom the

information relates in resolving a problem. There are other issues of constituents that by merely directing them to the proper channels, such as labour standards, human rights, patient care representatives, these issues can be taken care of. But there are also clearly cases where the constituent may not have the ability to advocate on their own behalf due to illness, language barriers, or a lack of understanding of how the process works.

MLAs reserve the prerogative of assisting their constituents in the most effective and efficient way possible. I'm not suggesting that every issue needs to end up on the Minister's desk, but when all else and other avenues fail, we do what we have to do to get our answers and to get the job done.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONGRATULATIONS TO
2011 NAHENDEH COLLEGE GRADUATES

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to congratulate the 2011 Nahendeh graduates of Aurora College who travel to Fort Smith and Yellowknife. The people of Nahendeh and the Northwest Territories appreciate the valuable skills you will bring back to your communities and the contributions you will make to the workforce.

Graduation is a significant milestone. I want to recognize your hard work and dedication in achieving your goals. Your commitment shows leadership and sets a good example to students who will follow in your footsteps.

I also want to recognize the graduates' families who offered support throughout this chapter in their lives. Education is a great investment in your future. I hope the training you have received will open doors to exciting careers and opportunities for lifelong learning. As MLA for Nahendeh, I wish you all the best in your future.

Of special note, seven of the eight graduates this year are women. The graduates are: with a Bachelor of Education Degree, Ms. Sharon Allen of Fort Simpson; with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Ms. Malerie Hardisty of Jean Marie River; with a Business Administration Diploma, Ms. Nicole Hardisty of Wrigley; with an Office Administration Certificate, Ms. Jocelyn Tsetso of Fort Simpson; with a Certificate in Adult Education, Mr. Dean Harvey of Fort Simpson; with a Social Work Diploma, Ms. Bianca Kotchea of Fort Liard; with a Bachelor of Science and Nursing, Ms. Leanne Niziol formerly of Wrigley.

I also wish to congratulate those who worked hard in universities and colleges, and those who work

hard as well in their Aurora College programs in their home communities.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
"MADE IN THE NWT" BRANDING PROGRAM

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of years ago I approached ITI with the idea of a made-in-the-NWT branding program. This idea was to support our local manufacturing businesses across the North to assist them as they market their products. Voluntary, of course, but what this does is help the consumers understand the choices before them. For example, a consumer could buy windows made in the NWT, which of course incidentally are produced in Hay River, or they could buy those other brands that are not produced in the North. The importance of this program is, as when I suggested it was, the fact that we are ensuring that the consumer is educated about the exciting work being done here in the North.

A few years later, under the leadership and vision of our present ITI Minister Bob McLeod, I was very pleased that ITI ran with the idea, and since that time I've been hearing a lot of positive things about it. I've heard from many constituents about the great feedback that they're getting when they're trying to sell their products. Businesses are excited because their product is identified as a true northern product available for our consumers.

Yesterday I tabled some examples about how we could further the ideas to continue to capitalize on the success on this type of branding concept. I'd like to call it an in-the-NWT program. I am hopeful it will spark energy and creativity as we promote northern-grown businesses and opportunities before us.

The examples are both exciting and endless, and they can be tailored to wherever we need it. We've all heard about the potatoes from Norman Wells. What about grown in the NWT? Many of us know wonderful and creative filmmakers, so what about filmed in the NWT, or explored in the NWT, fished in the NWT, or, certainly, hunted in the NWT? That's assuming, of course, there's caribou left. The way we go. All right.

The possibilities are endless, of course. It's really limited by the creativity we want to put into it ourselves. Northern creativity and entrepreneurial spirit is certainly out there, alive and well. This program, in-the-NWT branding, could be part of a seamless, long-term strategy to market all that our NWT has to offer. We could capitalize on the momentum already captured under this made-in-the-NWT program by finishing it off and calling it only-in-the-NWT.

I hope ITI will run with this idea and I certainly hope that they will continue the concept developed under made-in-the-NWT program and promote it under what I call the in-the-NWT. This is an opportunity for us all.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GNWT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
YELLOWKNIFE SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 22, 2011, the deputy ministers of both Justice and Health and Social Services penned a joint letter to His Worship Mayor Gord Van Tighem concerning GNWT involvement on the City of Yellowknife's Social Issues Committee. I tabled a copy of the letter on Wednesday afternoon.

The City of Yellowknife does not have a mandate to deal with health and social services issues within the community; no community does. This is a mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Regardless, the City of Yellowknife recognizes that they have a role in advising the GNWT and the Government of Canada on social issues within the city of Yellowknife. They also recognize that in city planning they need to be aware of social issues affecting the residents and how these issues can affect city administration and potential programming. Things like, but not limited to, affordable housing, community enhancement, and recreational programming are all affected by social issues affecting residents of Yellowknife and all communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

To address this, the city developed the Yellowknife Social Issues Committee to assist the GNWT by considering issues, conveying areas of concern, and providing advice to the Government of the Northwest Territories. The city asked the GNWT, in particular the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services, to have representation on this committee. Until March 2011 both of these departments had representation on this committee. By way of a letter tabled on Wednesday, the deputy ministers informed the mayor that their respective departments and the GNWT as a whole would no longer be active members of this committee. In my opinion, the arguments for removing themselves as active members of the committee were sound. Given the committee's mandate, emergent areas of interest, and expectations of the GNWT, it is reasonable to assume that the GNWT employees would be placed in potential areas of conflict of interest. In the responses, the deputy ministers did indicate that they would make staff available, at the request of the committee, to answer questions on

specific programs provided by the GNWT which may be of interest to the committee.

This is certainly one option to consider. Unfortunately, I don't feel that it will really meet the needs of the city and it certainly doesn't provide the GNWT with an ongoing and timely community perspective. I feel that there is a better option than just making staff available upon demand. I suggest that to avoid a potential conflict of interest, that the GNWT commit to having representatives from both of these departments attend these committee meetings as non-voting advisors. In addition to being advisors, these individuals could be effective liaisons between the city and the Government of the Northwest Territories on social issues.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. ABERNETHY: This is a win-win for both sides. The city will have timely access to program information and the GNWT will always be up to date on issues concerning the residents of Yellowknife and, by default, they will be ready to respond to official requests in a proactive manner rather than reactive manner. This is a good thing. This model could be easily used in all communities throughout the NWT and would enhance relationships between the GNWT and all community and regional governments.

At the appropriate time I will be asking either the Minister of Justice or the Minister of Health and Social Services some questions on this topic.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SUPPORTING SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN NUNAKPUT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When parents send their children to school hundreds of miles away, they're expecting a certain amount of assistance and care from the government and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Not that the region has not had good government-assisted boarding homes, parents are literally left out to make do on their own and the kids to fend for themselves, once they have to return home. It's unacceptable. The lack of support and attention to this matter from the district education office, the Department of ECE, this government, shows that they're not in touch with the people in the small and remote communities. The only handful of communities that are small enough to have a high school. These communities are left on their own. This government is not for all the people of the Northwest Territories. I have received many parents' concern for the lack of support and assistance they receive regarding the boarding

home care of their children during high school in Inuvik.

This government and the district office must do more to assist families and find appropriate boarding homes and facilities so their children can go to school and learn in a healthy environment. Many students live in boarding homes where there's drinking, and drugs, and partying. That's no place for a student to study and learn. It's unacceptable. Many reasons why students in Nunakput drop out of school, but that's a major concern when they do, because we don't support them. If we are asking our kids to stay in school, we need to set them up and meet them half way. We need to provide for them resources, moral support, a good school environment, and a safe, reliable place for them to live. So far we're not providing many of these services and that's a shame.

This government should look at the vision statement of the 16th Legislative Assembly and apply it to all of the Northwest Territories.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
FRAMEWORK AS INTEGRAL TO
ABORIGINAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A critical missing connection must be made between the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative and the planned review and renewal of the Early Childhood Development Framework. The Education Minister informs me that a draft discussion paper on the ECD Framework is planned for June, with working group meetings in September. Stakeholder consultations will begin in January 2012, with the final product for the 17th Legislative Assembly. Meanwhile, the Minister's Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative is well underway, with a product likely in this Assembly.

This puts the proverbial sled well ahead of the dog team. No discussion of Aboriginal student achievement can be complete until we have comprehensive plans for nurturing all students of tomorrow. In particular, our biggest opportunity by far is to support preschoolers, especially newborns to age three. As I've repeatedly stressed, learning potential is hugely influenced well before the beginning of formal schooling. For maximum success, an informed plan for improving Aboriginal student achievement must be based upon a strategic approach to maximizing the health and learning potential of preschoolers. Concentrating first and only on the schooling aspects of Aboriginal student achievement narrows our focus and puts us in jeopardy of treating early childhood education as an extension of the institutional schooling system. While the ASA declares early childhood as a

priority, their defined meaning is restricted to schooling.

Early childhood development must incorporate home-based programs and toddler child care. That's the best preparation for success in both life and education, including the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative. In revitalizing the Early Childhood Development Framework, we must consider all the options that support childhood development. That includes expansion and improvement of the Healthy Families, Moms and Tots, and visiting nurses programs, family literacy and parenting programs, and even toy lending libraries.

We must finally take action to create the family resource centres which were in the original ECD framework but, like the child and family services committees, never created. A comprehensive early childhood plan is the essential first step to improving Aboriginal student achievement.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: A comprehensive early childhood development plan is the essential first step to improve Aboriginal student achievement. Until we have early childhood plans in place, the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative will be lacking critical answers. Let's not short change the vital early childhood issues by rushing to early decisions on formal schooling aspects of Aboriginal student achievement.

I will be asking the Minister of ECE questions on this. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GNWT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
YELLOWKNIFE SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned by our colleague Mr. Abernethy earlier, the mayor of the City of Yellowknife recently received a letter from two GNWT deputy ministers. The message in that letter was that our government, the departments of Health and Social Services and Justice, would no longer fully participate on the Yellowknife Social Issues Committee.

Like Mr. Abernethy, I am deeply disappointed by this decision, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is very much a move in the wrong direction. The Yellowknife bi-annual community survey has several times identified social problems in the city as the number one issue for Yellowknife residents. My community government, Yellowknife City Council, is being proactive, responding to the concerns of residents

by establishing a Social Issues Committee. They want to make life in our city better, and they are working to improve the community for residents and visitors alike.

So where does the responsibility lie for ensuring the social well-being of residents? Not with the city. That financial and program responsibility belongs with the territorial government. With the action outlined in the letter, the GNWT is backing away from that responsibility. The government should welcome the positive and proactive approach of Yellowknife's council and should recognize the value that an active, interested organization can bring to the table when trying to solve our social ills.

The provision of health services, social services and justice services by this government to NWT residents is handled through our departments of Health and Social Services and Justice. This government should be working through those departments, should be working with the City of Yellowknife to advance initiatives and create success in the area of social issues. We have seen a few of those successful collaborations. The day shelter is one of them. The Homelessness Coalition, which includes GNWT representation, has proven to be a very positive force and has accomplished a great deal. Why can't that same thing happen with the Yellowknife Social Issues Committee?

I have to wonder, Mr. Speaker, where the priorities of the City of Yellowknife sit with this government. How committed is the GNWT to supporting our capital city both in funding and with human resources support?

This government needs to remember that the city of Yellowknife is 50 percent of the NWT population, that the city of Yellowknife is the engine, the main generator for the NWT economy, that the city of Yellowknife has services here which many NWT residents come here to use.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: Whether you like it or not, Yellowknife is a magnet community and, as such, provides for many Northerners who've moved here from their home community to access better services. The financial strain that that puts on Yellowknife must be recognized by this government.

Mr. Speaker, a community striving to improve itself for the benefit of its residents should not be penalized for their actions.

I will have questions for the Deputy Premier at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMITMENT TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, programs and services are essential to delivering services throughout the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, the reality is a lot of our communities are losing programs and services which are either being cut back or phased out altogether.

Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about the nursing position in Tsiigehtchic where we have a health centre which, again, is not functional because you don't have a full-time nurse to maintain and operate and provide the essential service.

Again, Mr. Speaker, cutting back at the Joe Greenland Centre in regard to moving it from a level three facility to a level two. There again, we're cutting back programs and services in our community which is essential for the care and the well-being of our residents.

Mr. Speaker, standing up here time and time again, regardless of making Member's statements...(inaudible)...petitions, or in most cases, getting motions passed from my colleagues in this House to support these initiatives and to keep them in place so that we can have programs and services that other people take for granted.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it's imperative that the Government of the Northwest Territories has a universal health system that works in all communities in the Northwest Territories, that basically encompasses the importance of not only our front-line nursing staff but the regional centres and also Yellowknife in regard to how health care is being provided. But, Mr. Speaker, once you start taking positions out of our communities, regardless if it's a nursing position in Tsiigehtchic or closure of the long-term care facility of the Joe Greenland Centre, this has a detrimental effect on the whole delivery system in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again petitions have been filed, as I did again this week, which was basically given to the Minister of Health January 11th in Aklavik, in which a public meeting at which over 100 people were in attendance, in which a lot of commitments were made and a lot of discussion took place. Again, this government made commitments publicly on exactly how they're going to continue to deliver programs in regard to elderly programs in Aklavik through the Joe Greenland Centre. Again, that is the commitment we made.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it's important that this government realizes that when you talk about

independent living, day programs, and all of the essential programs, you need to run such a facility as the Joe Greenland Centre, commitment is not only a verbal commitment, it needs a financial commitment.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister of Health exactly where we are in our commitment to our communities.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ENTREPRENEURIAL INITIATIVES
UNDERTAKEN IN THE SAHTU

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For thousands of years the people of the Sahtu have relied on the land to sustain us and our elders to guide us. Mr. Speaker, with those resources, it's hard to keep the good people down, even with the challenges the residents face today. Just look at the issue in Norman Wells.

However, today I am pleased to talk about the projects that the Sahtu residents are involved in to address the high cost of living and improve their way of life. The Sahtu has become the potato capital of the Northwest Territories. Last year more than 10,000 pounds of spuds were grown locally and sold throughout the region. But it's just not potatoes, Mr. Speaker. Gerry and Monica Loomis are the proud owners of Produce North. The Norman Wells business grew over 24,000 plants and vegetables last summer. This year they're doubling the size of their greenhouse operation, which will make them one of the largest retail businesses of plants and vegetables in the Northwest Territories.

I think as well as the potato capital, Norman Wells is also known as the tomato capital. I am pleased that all five of the Sahtu communities now have greenhouses. Residents are becoming more sustainable by growing their own foods which will help them bring down the cost of living. One example of a successful greenhouse operation is the greenhouse in Deline operated by Verna Firth. Last summer all kinds of vegetables and plants were grown in this greenhouse, and the local hotel benefited from the locally grown lettuce during the summer months.

Another feather into the cap of the Sahtu is the news that some of the Deline residents are planning to raise free-range chickens and turkeys. Deline will soon be famous for more than the birthplace of ice hockey in Canada as those free-range chickens can show up on our dinner plates around the Sahtu and maybe even on our plates here.

Mr. Speaker, the Sahtu region is not only known for producing delicious vegetables, tourism, fishing and

big-game hunting attract people in our region every year. A local hunter recently became famous for bagging the largest muskox rack. Just last fall a visiting hunter took the largest ever Woodland caribou rack in the Mackenzie Mountains, and recently a world record trout was caught in Great Bear Lake.

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

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honourable colleagues. Outdoor adventure enthusiasts from all over come to the Sahtu, come to experience some of the finest whitewaters in North America. In addition to our rivers, Mr. Speaker, our trails have also become famous within the hiking circles. Last summer, through a partnership between ITI and the Tulita Land Corporation, a beautiful hiking trail from the Mackenzie River to the top of Yamoria on the top of Bear Rock was developed. The trail offers the finest view of the Mackenzie of all NWT traditional trails around Fort Good Hope that have been reopened, which allowed young Aboriginal youth the opportunity to enjoy the history and culture of the K'asho Got'ine. Colville Lake has the rights to boast Bern Will Brown paintings. Mr. Speaker, the Canol Trail is also known for its hiking extreme enthusiasts who hike this trail.

Mr. Speaker, this July myself and the Minister of ITI will be attending the opening of the Norman Wells Float Base and Aviation Museum. Mr. Speaker, the spirit of entrepreneurialship is alive and well in the Sahtu. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize my constituency assistant, Ms. Leona Pearl Norwegian, who worked with me in Yellowknife all this week. Mahsi cho.

Also, her birthday is Saturday, so please join me in wishing her a special public happy birthday.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 67-16(6):
SUPPORTING SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN NUNAKPUT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, you know I've been bringing this up in the House numerous times in regard to students out of Sachs Harbour over the past two years and nothing is being done. Mr. Speaker, given that currently there are many students in Nunakput who, for various reasons, have left high school and moved back to their home communities, reasons such as nowhere to live, not enough moral support or resources, will this government immediately commit the funds to make resources available for a high school teacher so that students can at least earn some high school courses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This particular issue has been, as the Member indicated, brought up in the House and we did approach BDEC, the Beaufort-Delta Department of Education, Beaufort-Delta Board of Education. We've been working closely with the board on identifying key aspects of the students: are they missing school or having challenges while they're in school, where they'll be staying. We provide funding to BDEC on an ongoing basis, on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, also the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, the meeting that we've had, the last one in the Beaufort-Delta was a very successful meeting. They talked about the importance of having every student succeed in education, and out of that, Mr. Speaker, part of the discussion was having our students in Inuvik as well focusing in those areas.

So, Mr. Speaker, a lot of discussion took place on that. The leadership were there, as well. Mahsi.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you. You know, all these meetings and nothing happening. Nothing's been done, students are still at home. The government spent over \$275,000 last year for the Western Arctic Leadership Program in Fort Smith. Why aren't they doing that in Inuvik, why just one community in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. That's the very reason why we're doing the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative forums in all regions. The Beaufort-Delta was, again, very successful, one of the successful outcomes. We had all of the leadership involved, the educators, the parents, even the youth to talk about their experience. They talk about what they want to be when they graduate

and so forth, and that the leadership, the DEA, the chairpersons were there discussing the importance of supporting our students and developing plans of action. That's what is going to be before this House and I'm looking forward to delivering that key messaging, the voices of the Northwest Territories and voices from the Beaufort-Delta that we're going to be delivering. Mahsi.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you. I look forward to it too again, but voices are not being heard. Time and time again I have brought this issue up in this House. There's a lack of support for our students in Inuvik that are coming in from the communities, it's not there. They're having to go home. I had a letter last week, Mr. Speaker, in regards to drug and alcohol issues, where a student was staying, they didn't want to stay in that house. Something is wrong with that. Will this government conduct a thorough review to identify how many high school students from small isolated communities have dropped out of high school? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. I believe we are listening to those voices. We listen to the MLA that is sitting here, Mr. Jacobson. He indicated the importance of supporting our students, the importance of having these students continue with higher education, and we are pursuing that through the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative. These are important works that are coming from the expertise at the grassroots level. We want to hear the people from the Beaufort-Delta region and that's what we're doing.

Also, the Beaufort-Delta education, they have all of the records, all of the attendance, the students that may have dropped out and the reasons for it. They have that information. The Member and community members can access that through the Beaufort-Delta Department of Education, the Board of Education, and it's easily accessible through them. Mahsi.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The grassroots level, I live it. Everyday I'm home I see some students in the community of Tuk not going to school because of lack of support. I'm still getting the same calls that I've been getting for the last two years. I'm getting the same letters from the same parents that are not being helped. The Minister could do something about this. The Minister could tell the Beaufort-Delta Education Council to fix the problem, but yet he doesn't. We're going to do more reviews, more of everything, but we're failing the students, Mr. Speaker. Two years now I've been standing up in here and asking him the same questions, but we're failing.

Will the government allocate the appropriate resources for serious problems regarding a lack of boarding facilities to ensure quarterly reviews and

benchmarks are met for future students in the upcoming school year? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. Yes, it's been two years that we've been pursuing this Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative since the Member raised this issue. We know that it's important, and it's not just the Member, all of the Members have been raising the issues about the success of our students, and that's the very reason why we're here, Mr. Speaker. We've visited all regions, and we're finalizing the package, and we will be meeting in a couple of weeks for the final go-round with the leadership to say this is what we've heard, this is what we want delivered, what do you think. That is key messaging that's in there.

The Beaufort-Delta educators, the teachers, the principals, the parents, the youth have raised a number of issues that the Member is raising in this House. So it will be a part of the package as we move forward. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 68-16(6):

GNWT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
YELLOWKNIFE SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Justice in follow-up to my Member's statement from earlier today where I was talking about the Yellowknife Social Issues Committee. On March 22, 2011, the two departments that were active members of this committee co-signed a letter to the mayor indicating that they're no longer going to be able to be active members. As I indicated in my Member's statement, I understand the reason for this is we don't want to put our employees in a position where they will be experiencing conflicts of interest. So the department responded, took these members off, but said we will make members available upon request of the committee, which is certainly an option and it may work, but as I indicated in my statement, I believe there is a better option. That would be to have individuals from those departments continue to sit on that committee on a regular basis as non-voting advisors. That would be great because we would be able to hear what they have to say and we'd be able to provide information in a real timely manner. It would be proactive rather than reactive.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice today if he'd commit to reconsidering their position and approaching the city to see if we could have a member from the Department of Justice sit on that committee on an ongoing basis to be this advisor that could be our liaison between the city and Justice on social issues in our community.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When this committee was first established, our representatives were on there, my Department of Justice and also the Department of Health and Social Services. In the beginning there was a lot of discussion across a broad sector of what's going to be happening, the programming in the Northwest Territories and Yellowknife. One of the key messages that came back was the potential conflict of interest that may have been perceived where departmental staff were sitting at the meeting with all the discussions and decisions that were being made. It was very uncomfortable for them. They came back and we discussed that, and the Member approached me just the other day. I did discuss it with my senior staff.

We would be more than willing to work with the committee on an advisory role, not a decision-making role, so they can have valuable input into the system, as well. I'm looking forward to that, working with the committee through my departmental staff.

MR. ABERNETHY: That's fantastic news. I look forward to hearing from the Minister, once somebody has been officially put on that committee in an advisory capacity.

With respect to the letter that was sent, there was a really good statement in the letter that I think we still need to follow up on. As an advisor and having some advisory capacity to attend these meetings, it opened us up to have other departments represented at this committee as well, being Education and Housing, in an advisory capacity, as well. I was wondering if the Minister of Justice could ensure that the person that he has attending this can sort of keep Education and Culture in the loop, Housing in the loop, as well. The letter was originally penned from Health and Social Services as well, so can the Minister work with the Department of Health and Social Services to make sure that that department is represented in an advisory capacity on that committee, as well, so that the city would make decisions on this committee as fully informed about our programs and services?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I'll definitely pursue that. Whatever we do at this venue is interdepartmental. There is a lot of discussion on programming, working with the Yellowknife committee, the social committee. I will be working with my colleagues as we move forward on this particular important piece of work.

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

QUESTION 69-16(6):
SMALL COMMUNITIES
EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the Small Communities Employment Strategy. I have questions for the Minister of ECE on that topic. Will the Minister consider having the Small Communities Employment Strategy delivered at a local level as much as possible?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. That's one of our intents as a department, and I believe that is the GNWT's intent to deliver programming at the community level as much as possible, whether it be at the regional office, at the local office. I'll continue to work with the Member on the areas of challenges that we may have. Our goal is to effectively and efficiently deliver those key programmings into the communities.

MR. BEAULIEU: Will the Minister allow as much flexibility into the program, into the three programs with the intent of maximizing local spending at the local level?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I need to work with the Member on the specific item that he's referring to and defining the flexibility. We do have staff at the community level that work closely with the regional office, and also from regional office to headquarter office. We can provide those valuable services to the community through that venue.

When we talk about it at the community level, if we don't have people present, then how can we deliver that program effectively? Those are areas that we need to seriously look at and how can we deliver those in a timely manner and efficiently. I will continue to work with the Members on this particular piece of work.

MR. BEAULIEU: Will the Minister pass the majority of the responsibility of delivery to community client service officers at the community level which we have in Tu Nedhe, have them fill the roles as career development officers which are usually regionalized or headquartered and have them play a role during the rest of their time for the day? Right now they're working half days. Have them do the career development officer position so that they can work full time in the communities.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: In Lutselk'e we have a dedicated half-time position client services officer. This particular position deals with various cases on the client files. Adding more duty to that individual's duties may be a challenge to some degree. Another area we can look at is the regional staff being visible in the community as much as possible. They are responsible for Lutselk'e and

Fort Res. I can look at that angle, how we can deliver with the resources we have from the regional perspective into the community. I, again, will work closely with the Member on this.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the confines of these programs, would the Minister consider contribution agreements with the Aboriginal and local governments for transferring funds to those governments for employment purposes?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Those different contribution agreements we have conducted in the past with the First Nations community organizations. We can look at it as a potential to explore those areas and see what can come out of that or involve the Member in the discussion, as well.

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

QUESTION 70-16(6):
GNWT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
YELLOWKNIFE SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Deputy Premier, who also happens to be the Minister of Health and Social Services. I want to reference the statement earlier by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs when he spoke about the value of strong community governments and also stated responsible, responsive community governments are critical to support healthy, safe, and vibrant communities. I think that my Member's statement referenced a strong and viable and responsive community, my own, which is attempting to provide better services for their residents.

I've heard the explanation from the Minister of Justice as to why the GNWT is withdrawing from the Yellowknife Social Issues Committee. I would like to ask the Minister, the Deputy Premier, and the Minister for Health why the Health department felt that a health representative could not sit on this committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Neither department is withdrawing from the committee. What we're doing is suggesting that there be a more appropriate change of status that would allow them to get more involved in a more effective way.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I am pleased to hear that I think the Minister said participation on the committee will still go forward. I do have to

question, though, that this was a rather strong response to a situation in which employees felt uncomfortable. Certainly as Members, we're often put in situations where we feel uncomfortable and we always have the opportunity to declare a conflict of interest. I think that could have been an appropriate response from these representatives.

Within many of our communities there are interagency committees which meet and they include participation of GNWT staff from within the community. I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not he sees an interagency committee in, say, Lutselk'e, to be different from the Yellowknife Social Issues Committee. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite sure of the structure of this committee compared to, say, an interagency committee, if it, in fact, exists. My understanding of most interagency groups that I've been familiar with is that it ebbs and flows and gathers around projects or specific issues to try and resolve situations at a committee level. In this case, it's an arrangement that we think is not harsh or overly dramatic. We think it's a measured, careful, thoughtful response, and coming up with a solution very similar to the solution put forward by the Member for Great Slave as a way to keep everybody engaged in a way that will respect the positions that they're in and potential conflict issues, and still allow the group to perform the functions that it was intended to perform the same as at the interagency groups. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: If the Minister doesn't think interagency committees exist, he might perhaps ask some of the representatives within communities. In my travels to communities, I think I've met with two or three of them and they seem to be pretty permanent.

To the Minister's statement that there will be continued participation on the Yellowknife Social Issues Committee, I'd like to ask the Minister if the Department of Health and Social Services is actively working with the Social Issues Committee to figure out what that participation can be, and when we might expect some sort of a revised indication of support for the committee. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Our engagement will be the same as what has been outlined by the Minister of Justice that was a jointly-signed letter, and it's an approach that we think will allow us to move forward and still have involvement in an advisory capacity, and as the Minister of Justice indicated, we're receptive to the types of suggestions made by the Member for Great Slave. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 71-16(6):
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services getting back to my statement that I made earlier today. In my statement I highlighted a Yellowknife scenario, but believe me, the situation where parents are losing their teenage sons and daughters to alcohol and drugs can happen in communities across the Northwest Territories; Inuvik, Fort Smith, Hay River, just to name a few.

Many families here in the Northwest Territories are being ripped apart with nowhere to turn when their children aged 15 to 18 take to the streets, are drinking, doing drugs and stealing. We need to make sure that as a government we have the resources to help the parents who find themselves in this nightmare scenario of not knowing where their son or daughter is and whether they are safe.

In the example I outlined in my Member's statement where a mother goes into Social Services and absolutely lays all of her cards on the table, my first question is: why in cases where it is very apparent that the young person is obviously making bad decisions and bad choices does Social Services say that unless this person is willing to agree to help, they cannot make them do it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I'd indicated that I believe that in almost every community, if not every community, there are places to turn. There are your parents. There are your relatives. If there are health officials, if there are social service people, if there are teachers, if there are other people that work in the community, there's your clergy that may be available, that we have those resources. The issue that the Member asks about in terms of the example he raised, I don't have the full details, but I would assume that there's an age issue and that the individual, the youth is old enough and they have certain rights of their own, as well, that have to be respected. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, if a child is 16 years old, why can't addictions treatment be given and mandated to that youth at a parent's request when the teenager who is oblivious to their problem says no, the treatment can't be enacted upon? I'd like to ask the Minister why this is the case that a 16 year old whose parents want them to get treatment cannot force that child into treatment. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, there are rights issues based on age. There are very few cases where you can have some type of

custodial disposition that will give legal authority to take somebody involuntarily into a treatment program. Those usually work through the courts, if it's through the young offenders process or if it's through an arrangement with the Department of Health and Social Services where there is an actual custodial disposition through the courts. But as a matter of practice for those types of situations where you're dealing with family issues and these types of circumstances, when you're 16 years old they have rights that have to be respected regardless of what the parents may think or want to do. You're not in a position to do it unilaterally. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I suspect that from the age of 12 to 18 it would be the same answer that the Minister would give us. I'd like to ask the Minister specific to families that are experiencing difficulties with the youth between 12 and 18 years of age what programs and services currently does the Department of Health and Social Services have at their disposal to help families going through these traumatic experiences with their children. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yellowknife has the best selection of services of any community in the Northwest Territories; things like the SideDoor. We have all the Health staff, Social Services staff that are here, the counselling agencies that are here, the health services at Stanton that are here. They have all the other network opportunities that are here. You have all the other access as well of some of the opportunities that I indicated earlier through other non-profit NGOs, as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This issue was clearly identified during the review of the Child and Family Services Act that was conducted by the Social Programs committee just recently. I'd like to know whether or not the government is going to take any action to address the gap in services and the help available to families that are going through these difficult times, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The response to the committee's report was in this House during the last session. There were agreements reached in terms of some additional funding to look at trying to get some of the community and family services committees set up, as well as a review and internal work that we're going to cover from within in terms of policy review and those types of things. Those commitments will be honoured. The other recommendations will be brought forward through the business planning process and will be there on the table for the incoming Assembly of the 17th Assembly in October or November when they have

to grapple with the budget for that coming next fiscal year. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 72-16(6):
TERRITORIAL PARKS IN THE SAHTU

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of ITI. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of ITI how many parks are there in the Sahtu region.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that we're trying to establish the Canol Park and the federal government is having a major park expansion in the Sahtu. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Minister and I are well aware that the challenges that we have established in the Canol Park, the territorial park, and once established, that park will be the largest park in the Northwest Territories. I wanted to ask the Minister about the parks, because in his ministerial statement certainly the Sahtu region was dearly missed in his statement, and I want to ask him if he would direct his bureaucrats to keep their eyes and ears open, and maybe they should read my Member's statement to note some of the good things that would attract visitors to the Sahtu. Would the Minister give a commitment to the people in the Sahtu that future Minister's statements will include the Sahtu? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. By all means. We try to be inclusive of all regions in the Northwest Territories and we'll pay special attention to the Sahtu. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I appreciate your commitment to the people in the Sahtu. I want to ask the Minister, in his Minister's statement he talked about the investment being spent in the other regions and I want to know about his investment to the Sahtu in terms of training and improvement to our facilities or renovations or any type of shelters. I know there is a McKinnon Park in Norman Wells that is looked after. Is that included in his budget?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. I'd have to check to see if McKinnon Park is a community park or whether it's a territorial park under our auspices, and I'll provide that information to the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the Minister's reply to that question.

I want to ask the Minister what steps is his department taking to increase the parks in the Sahtu, in Good Hope, Colville, Deline or Tulita. What things can his department do to establish some sort of community or territorial park?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. We have a number of initiatives. We do have the Protected Areas Strategy, and that is grassroots developed and promoted from the bottom up. So we'd need the community to bring forward some initiatives to develop community parks. We do, as part of our planning strategy, do some assessments to determine the demand for these parks, and through those various programs we can look at the Sahtu to see what the needs are there for parks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 73-16(6):
CONSENT FORM POLICY REGARDING
MLA REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
FOR CONSTITUENTS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are in follow-up to my Member's statement. They're directed to Minister Miltenberger I guess as the Deputy Premier and Government House Leader and overseer of many things these days. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I talked about the request that we've been receiving as MLAs from certain departments when we are seeking assistance or advocating on behalf of our constituents, consent forms that need to be, well, they come as an attachment to the request for us to get them from our constituents. So there is a form out there called a consent form.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to know if this is now a policy of this government, and if so, when did this become policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue about confidentiality and the need to protect confidentiality when dealing with constituents and clients has been there. As we do business, it's become more formal as the legislation across the land has been tested about breaches, about information getting out without people's knowledge. It has become a greater issue and it's a way to try to standardize the approach so it's consistent across government. The consent form has been developed in an attempt to try to have that balance not to impede the work of MLAs so much as to make sure that people and territorial residents know that their information in government is protected, and that we will only share it if they

know it and we have their consent to do that. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you. I repeat my question: is this a policy of government now, or are we just making this up as we go along here? Is a consent form a required policy of this government, and does it apply government-wide to all departments or just to specific ones? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. There are different types of information that, yes, it is a practice across the government where the information, such as health information, or housing information, or education, or justice information of a very particular personal nature is stored and kept so that it's managed in the appropriate way that we can have the safeguards. Other information is not quite as sensitive; it doesn't have the same kind of requirements. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I'm still not hearing that this is a formal policy of this government. When did this consent form policy materialize? When did it surface? When did it become an issue? How were Members and people in the North made aware that such a policy existed, because it does not seem to be consistent. Also, it does not seem to be in keeping with the actual Protection of Privacy and Access to Information Act itself, which clearly states that MLAs are excluded from some of the stringent rules regarding the protection of information.

I think everybody needs to handle information with respect and with great care. However, I need to understand what this government's policy is on this. When did it come into effect? How were we notified? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. That's a detailed, technical question and I will take it as notice.

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

QUESTION 74-16(6):
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY AND THE ABORIGINAL
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT INITIATIVE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are in follow-up to my Member's statement earlier and directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I stated in my Member's statement I have questions regarding the Minister's vision for promoting Aboriginal student achievement through a seamless transition from early childhood development programs. I'm particularly distressed in question period to hear him state to my colleague Mr. Jacobson that the department is finalizing the package on Aboriginal student achievement. This is well before we had the insights of early childhood development, which is probably the biggest pillar in our opportunities to

address Aboriginal student achievement. So, given the current disconnect in schedules and noting that the Aboriginal student achievement focuses on schooling aspects of early childhood, how does the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative interconnect with the review of the Early Childhood Development Framework? Mahsi.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, one of the four key initiatives that we've been delivering through the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative is early childhood and child care. So those are the areas that we've been tackling at the community level. It does consist of a variety of parties, such as the IRC, Dene Nation, the NWT Metis Nation, Native Women's Association, NWTTA, Literacy Council, Aurora College, superintendents, DEC, DEAs, our department, early childhood and school services, and the Early Childhood Development Framework is coming, but the ASA, the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, covers not only schools but at the home level before a baby is being born. So there's been a lot of discussion around this area by the people at the community level; the parents, the superintendents, the teachers, the principals, the youth. Even the youth have talked about how we can nurture and support the young early childhood programming. It does cover that area, as well. We'll continue to work the linkage between those two programmings.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for those remarks. There are two problems with that approach, of course. First is that the early childhood development review has not been complete so we're dealing with old information. Second, the Minister, in his briefings, has told me that the early childhood aspect of the review of Aboriginal student achievement focuses on schools, daycares, mandatory kindergarten for five year olds, optional kindergarten for four year olds. Even the family and student support focuses on things like family counsellors and tutors, access to school computers. These are way too late for the biggest opportunity we have for early childhood education.

The state of early childhood development programming is obviously a critical consideration in any plan for Aboriginal student achievement. What input is the early childhood sector -- and the Minister listed mostly educational sectors -- having on discussions of early childhood issues, especially those focusing on the age of zero to three during the consultations of the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I didn't highlight just education parties. There have been various organizations that are involved in the discussion

right at the start of the ASA forum that we initiated in the Sahtu region in September until just last week. Those key areas of early childhood development, the discussion from the parties, such as my department, is education and early childhood, and also school services. Also the grandmothers, the parents that are actively involved in education matters. Some have retired but came back to lend their support to provide services as much as they can towards this product that's before us.

Again, it goes hand in hand with ASA and we have the Early Childhood Development Framework that's going to be part of the package that's going to be before us. Some of these individual organizations I have highlighted I'm sure will be part of the team too. These are two important documents that will be before us. I'm also looking forward to making it even stronger to the communities.

MR. BROMLEY: I certainly agree that these are two very important processes and will result in important documents. My concern is the schedules do not permit the integration that's needed. Again, I didn't hear the Minister mention daycares, day homes, child care centres, Healthy Families program coordinators, family literacy experts. Will the Minister commit to involving all of these early childhood providers and stakeholders before making any decisions under the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative related to early childhood development for children aged zero to six?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Those parties that the Member highlighted will definitely be involved with the Early Childhood Development Framework. Their input will be valuable. The Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative does highlight the early childhood and also child care area that consists in the schools and also at home, too, where parents, again, grandparents, they were the ones who forced that upon us to say we need to focus on those individuals that are not born yet, that are in the womb, and talk to the child. That is advice that we are receiving from the communities, from the regions. We'll continue to push that forward.

The big package will be before us as well, the Early Childhood Development Framework, which will take some time to develop and have all the materials together, discussion, and we'll definitely put that forward to the Legislative Assembly, as well.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for the comments from the Minister. I'm happy he appreciates what I'm trying to bring forward here and will try to address it. I still haven't heard him address the scheduling difficulties, because there are two different tracks here. Decisions apparently will be made on Aboriginal student achievement earlier.

Will the Minister commit to reviewing this situation and briefing the Standing Committee on Social Programs at the earliest opportunity on how the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative and early childhood development reviews will be integrated before any changes are made?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We did present the ASA during the process, and we can provide that as soon as we have that information from the regional leadership to say where we're going with this. We can provide an update to the standing committee.

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

QUESTION 75-16(6):
COMMITMENT TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES
IN SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to my Member's statement on the delivery of programs and services. In most cases these are essential services, regardless if it's a nurse or the Joe Greenland Centre care for elders.

I'd like to ask the Minister, there have been petitions filed in this House, there have been motions passed in this House. You realize that some 500 people signed petitions that were tabled in this House requesting that we save the Joe Greenland Centre. I'd like to ask the Minister what the government is doing to ensure that we sustain that facility, sustain the programs and services for the people of Aklavik. The same thing applies to the people in Tsiigehtchic with regard to the Nursing Program.

I'd like to ask the Minister if he could give me an update on exactly where we are with the Joe Greenland Centre, and are we living up to the commitments that were given by the previous Minister at a public meeting in January.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Joe Greenland Centre, the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority has transitioned their full-time care programming at the Joe Greenland Centre to the Elders Day Program and Expanded Home Care to support Aklavik seniors to live independently in their own homes. These expanded programs are up and running. The commitment for \$350,000 out of the current budget to be maintained for the provision of home care and supported living is being honoured. The wing that has residents in it is going to be continued to be kept up and running,

and the eight units in the west wing which were previously administered by the authority are going to be renovated in order to provide additional independent seniors living.

MR. KRUTKO: I'd like to ask the Minister if he can give me an exact breakdown of that \$350,000 and are those positions fully activated. If not, when are you intending to have those positions filled and the programs and services that you mentioned being delivered on the ground?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, I can provide that information to the Member and I'd be happy to do that.

MR. KRUTKO: Again, I think we have to realize as government that we do have some challenges in the Northwest Territories on program services. Again, it's essential that these services in our communities aren't clawed back, taken away, or deleted altogether. That's the frustration of the community of Aklavik.

Joe Greenland Centre has been a level three facility for many years and served many people throughout the Northwest Territories. By simply deleting that program and putting in something that is simply a care program, I'd like to ask the Minister -- I know there's a lot of people out there asking for program services -- what are you doing to protect the programs and services in our communities and making sure that we have long-term sustainability of these programs and maintain the programs at the levels, if not enhance those programs so that we receive the same programs throughout the Territories.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: In this particular case -- and I appreciate the Member's broad concern about having basic services in communities -- in some cases communities don't have services that larger centres have. In this case with the Joe Greenland Centre, as I've indicated, we've honoured the commitments that were made. We've brought other home support workers staff on board. We've expanded the home care support and assisted people to stay in their own homes. We're going to honour that commitment.

Across the North we're challenged with trying to meet all the demands that are there with the resources we have, but in this particular case we worked closely with the community to honour those commitments.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I know Joe Greenland is a unique problem, but I think that problem appears all through the Northwest Territories. A lot of our communities, like McPherson where we have 120-something elders over the age of 60 -- that's a large portion of our population -- need these type of programs. I'd like

to ask the Minister what he's doing to expand the respite care program, the care programs for elders throughout the Northwest Territories, especially in a lot of our rural and remote communities.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There was some funding available in the budget that was recently passed to look at expanding respite services outside of Yellowknife. It was a modest amount of money, but it was a start. As I've indicated in this House to the many questions that we've had and requests for program enhancements, be it midwifery or addiction services or other facilities to be built or other program areas, as we all know, as I indicated in my fiscal update as Minister of Finance, we have significant fiscal constraints that precludes us at this point from engaging in any significant new program expansions. Keeping in mind as well that we're only four months from the end of our term and we're building up the work for the new Assembly to consider as they set about setting their priorities and looking at the budget for 2012-2013.

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

QUESTION 76-16(6):

"MADE IN THE NWT" BRANDING PROGRAM

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about opportunities that ITI I'm hoping will consider. I've proposed to them a program called in-the-NWT. In my Member's statement I talked about the success the Made-in-the-NWT Program has developed into and many northern businesses have expressed to me with great pride that they're able to access that, promote their products from a made-in-the-NWT point of view. I thought, after considering that, that that was really the genesis of what could be in the NWT and it could be applied to many industries. So I had a graphic artist work with me to come up with a number of concepts that I tabled yesterday. It is not limited to what I tabled. There are many other ideas that could come out of it. I'd like to ask the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment as to what he thinks of the concept thus far and has the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment had a chance to evaluate the concept I brought to them.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government we're always looking at ways to promote the North, and to attract visitors and investment, and promote locally produced, locally manufactured products. We have quite a number of promotional campaigns that we are delivering. Any opportunity that we can find to help us do a better

job, we seriously look at it. We haven't been able to find a one-size-fits-all program as of yet, so we're intrigued by this idea. I've asked the Northwest Territories Tourism Marketing Committee to look at this and see if it would fit within the parameters of what we're doing, and also to identify how we would reach our target audiences with such a program as the Member has outlined.

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate the answer from the Minister. I've approached different people in industries and I've talked to some people in the film industry. They thought it was an interesting concept. I've talked to people in the agriculture industry and they thought it was kind of nice. They're certainly looking forward to what the government can do, if they can do anything, on the context of this concept. The product I brought to the Minister and that I tabled before the House yesterday was not to be a finished product. It was about trying to spark the genesis of new ideas that are rightly suited with the territorial marketing campaign and identity. This is just meant to be a vehicle of thinking and getting some ideas on the table.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the idea here is really in the NWT, but the bottom line is only in the NWT, because, I mean, a lot of exciting things happen here and I think we can market ourselves with this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, does the Minister see the department in a way that they're able to respond to this, getting advice from the NWT Tourism or their marketing team or even any of the chambers, for that matter, because I've even spoken to people in the business community. Does he see a potential of getting an answer, opportunity, or some type of direction mandate from these groups within a short period here so we can set the course on this initiative before the end of the Assembly? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That's my intention. As I said, I've asked the NWT Tourism Marketing Committee to look at it. I also will be running it by my ministerial advisory panel. We meet generally on a semi-annual basis. We also with the NWT Chamber of Commerce jointly developed a brand for products that are manufactured in the Northwest Territories. We have to look at how this would work with some of the other brands that we've developed. For example, for fur we have the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program. We've developed a brand to promote Northwest Territories artists, and we have a number of other brands that we use. We will look at all of these different things to see whether this would take away, detract, or would advance our branding programs. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 77-16(6):
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY AND THE ABORIGINAL
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT INITIATIVE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my questions to the Minister of ECE.

I just want to start by saying that I appreciate the Minister's commitment to update Social Programs on what he's hearing on the Aboriginal student achievement review, but that's not what I was asking. What I am seeking specifically, recognizing that true early childhood development can be the cornerstone and perhaps the most important cornerstone of this achievement initiative, will the Minister commit to offer, at the earliest opportunity, a briefing on how the two reviews, ASA and early childhood, will be integrated before any decisions are made? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I did already commit to meeting with the committee and we can meet whenever the committee is available to discuss the ASA, and also the Early Childhood Development Framework integration, and the dates and so forth. I've committed to meeting with the committee. Mahsi.

MR. BROMLEY: I don't have any further questions. Thanks to the Minister for that commitment.

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

QUESTION 78-16(6):
DISTRACTED DRIVING LEGISLATION

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A particular issue I've been raising for a number of years, as well as my colleague Ms. Bisaro, is the distracted driving legislation, and it is of significant concern to a number of other MLAs in this House.

Mr. Speaker, recently at one of my constituency meetings people were wondering if the government will be moving forward on this type of initiative, especially recognizing the amount of time left in this particular Assembly and knowing full well that if legislation isn't introduced in this sitting it won't be considered under this government, under the 16th Assembly, and of course, this will be a decision for the 17th at that rate.

Mr. Speaker, my question would be to the Minister of Transportation. Does he see his department moving on any type of distracted driving legislation coming forward within the remainder of this particular session that ends by next Thursday? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is yes. We are bringing legislation forward for introduction during this session.

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

QUESTION 79-16(6):
DECLARING THE RESIDENCE OF BERN WILL
BROWN AS A CANADIAN HISTORICAL SITE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Deputy Premier. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Deputy Premier if he would work with me to take up the initiative to declare a Canadian historical site in Colville Lake to the log buildings that Bern Will Brown built so that they would be looked after by this society.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of any process to do that. I understand, as well, that Mr. Brown is still half way residing there. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister again, Mr. Brown has written to me and he's asking me to urge this government here to consider helping him, along with myself -- I support him -- to look at declaring the facilities that he has built in Colville Lake as a Canadian historical site. He is afraid that these buildings won't be maintained once he's passed on to the other world. At this stage we're asking if this government will look at an initiative like this to bring to the federal government's attention.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'm not familiar with that request and I'll have to do some work to find out what exactly the status is, so I will take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for question period has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 5-16(6):

ESTABLISHMENT OF MOBILE ALCOHOL
AND DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Government of the Northwest Territories take immediate action to identify the various options for establishing a mobile alcohol and drug treatment program that can be delivered on the land, and report back to the 17th Legislative Assembly during the first six months of its term in office.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 12:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 6,
2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will move that Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 6, 2010-2011, be read for the first time.

BILL 13:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1,
2011-2012

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will move that Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012, be read for the first time.

BILL 14:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 1,
2011-2012

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will move that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

BILL 15:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE
DEH CHO BRIDGE ACT

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will move that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Deh Cho Bridge Act, be read for the first time.

BILL 16:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE
MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will move that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

BILL 17:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE
TERRITORIAL PARKS ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will move that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board, Mr. Bob McLeod.

BILL 18:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will move that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

BILL 19:

COST OF CREDIT DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will move that Bill 19, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

BILL 20:

VITAL STATISTICS ACT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 16, 2011, I will

move that Bill 20, Vital Statistics Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Motions

MOTION 4-16(6):
REVOCATION OF APPOINTMENT
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: WHEREAS pursuant to Section 61.(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner the appointment of Members of the Executive Council;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 61.(2) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the persons appointed hold office during the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Assembly, pursuant to these powers, has chosen the Honourable Sandy Lee to sit as a Member of the Executive Council;

AND WHEREAS the Honourable Sandy Lee has formally resigned as a Member of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that this Assembly formally revokes the appointment of the Honourable Sandy Lee as a Member of the Executive Council.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 11:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act; Bill 6, Forgiveness of Debts Act; and Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act, with Mr. Abernethy in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. In front of us today are Bill 5, Bill 6 and Bill 8. What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish of the committee today is to deal with Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): With that, we'll take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Committee has agreed to deal with Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act. I'd like to ask Minister Robert McLeod if he has opening remarks.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Go ahead.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am here to present Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act.

The amendments included in Bill 8 are intended to update and modernize the legislation to keep pace with the needs of local authorities in the Northwest Territories, and reflect the input of our partners, the NWT Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT. I would like to extend my thanks to these organizations for their advice and assistance, and to the participants on the peer review group who contributed a significant amount of time and energy over several years to the project to amend this legislation.

The most significant amendments authorize municipalities to have options in the election rules for additional voting opportunities, for electronic voting counting, for campaign contribution disclosure, and for deciding tie votes. Other amendments are designed to make elections more manageable, such as a shortened campaign period, automatic recounts, and increased authority of the chief municipal electoral officer to respond to

extraordinary situations that may occur during an election.

I look forward to hearing comments from the Members and answering any questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I'd like to ask the chairman of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure if he has comments. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure held public hearings on Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act, in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Ulukhaktok, Inuvik, and Aklavik, during the month of April 2011. A public clause-by-clause review was held on May 10, 2011. Seven minor amendments of a technical nature were made to the bill during the clause-by-clause review. Following the clause-by-clause review a motion was carried to report Bill 8 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted.

This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 8. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I would like to ask the Minister now if he would like to bring in witnesses.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I would ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

I'd like to ask the Minister to please introduce his witnesses.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me today Mr. Mike Aumond to my left, deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs; Mr. David Kravitz is manager of community governance; Mr. Mark Aitken is director of legislation for Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. We have before us, committee, Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act. Open for general comments. Any general comments? Detail? Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): We'll proceed with the clause by clause. To do that we will turn to page 1. Does committee agree to clause 1 through 5?

---Clauses 1 through 57 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Does committee agree to the bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Does committee agree that Bill 8 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 8 as a whole approved for third reading

Thank you, committee, and thank you, Minister. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses from the House. Mrs. Groenewegen.

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

---Carried

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

Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8 and would like to report that Bill 8 is ready for third reading. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Orders of the day for Friday, May 13, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.:

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

-
- Motion 5-16(6), Establishment of Mobile Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program
18. First Reading of Bills
- Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 6, 2010-2011
 - Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012
 - Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012
 - Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Deh Cho Bridge Act
 - Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act
 - Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act
 - Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act
 - Bill 19, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act
 - Bill 20, Vital Statistics Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
- Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- Bill 3, Electronic Transactions Act
 - Bill 4, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act
 - Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-2011
 - Bill 6, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010-2011
 - CR 1-16(6), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Auditor General's Report on the Deh Cho Bridge Project, 2011
 - CR 2-16(6), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Auditor General's Report on NWT Health Programs and Services, 2011
 - CR 3-16(6), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2009-2010 Human Rights Commission Annual Report
 - CR 4-16(6), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the NWT Languages Commissioner Annual Report 2009-2010
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
- Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act
23. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, May 16, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.
- ADJOURNMENT
- The House adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

