



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**6<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 8**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Monday, May 16, 2011**

Pages 6613 - 6650

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, May 16, 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, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:34 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

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

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 16-16(6):  
SESSIONAL STATEMENT

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. NWT residents have long heard about the potential of their territory. Of a future filled with opportunities and choices that could be realized thanks to the rich and varied wealth of resources that lie within our geographic boundaries.

We are a region that continues to be in the spotlight of the international stage and at the forefront of many discussions and debates.

I have just returned from ministerial meetings of the Arctic Council in Nuuk, Greenland. The meetings were attended by Foreign Affairs and other senior Ministers from each of the eight circumpolar nations.

The world is realizing what we have always known to be true: that the Arctic holds a special and strategic place in the world, economically, environmentally and politically. And our own country is more aware of Canada's Arctic energy resources and the potential and significance they hold.

But potential is all we will have until we take action and realize it.

When we took office as a 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, almost four years ago, Members talked about taking that action, about establishing the foundation on which future Assemblies and governments could build a unified, prosperous and self-reliant territory. A territory that is the master of its own destiny; a territory that represents our nation's global potential, leadership and strategic position in the Arctic region and on the Arctic Council; and a

territory recognized across Canada as a unique and contributing member of the federation.

We captured a picture of that future in our vision statement: Strong individuals, families and communities sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally-sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories.

We needed to first complete the difficult tasks of putting our fiscal house in order, to address immediate and escalating costs, and to help ensure the sustainability of our core programs.

We established tighter control on our costs. We improved our budget process to make it more controlled, planned and accountable. We organized our work and resources into five initiatives designed to meet the collective goals and priorities of Members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

We backed up our strategic initiatives with solid investments. We took steps to align our budget with our priorities so appropriate resources were directed to achieving our vision.

Mr. Speaker, these early efforts proved fortuitous at the midway point of our term when the NWT, like the rest of the world, was forced to reckon with the most serious economic downturn in a generation.

Thanks to our initial fiscal diligence, we found ourselves well positioned to make the investments we needed to protect our residents and businesses, and even to leverage an unprecedented amount of federal economic stimulus investment from the Government of Canada.

In fact, we put in place a record three-year \$1.1 billion capital program for roads, bridges, schools, health centres, houses and other critical projects across the NWT.

Our investments helped to stabilize the territorial economy and build much needed public infrastructure. At a time when Canada's economy has slowed due to the international recession, our plan provided significant investment in the NWT and substantial employment and contract opportunities for our residents and contractors.

As important as this investment, however, was the manner in which it was undertaken from the ground up.

Operations and maintenance funding to community governments has increased 20 percent over the past four years. Water and sewer funding over the same time period has increased 30 percent.

Gas tax funding has increased to a stable funding level of \$15 million a year. Community public infrastructure funding has been maintained.

Community governments are now playing an increased role in targeting the priorities and investments in their communities. The certainty we have built into their funding is allowing them to invest and plan for their future.

In fact, community governments have used their funding from the GNWT to leverage and cost share \$45.5 million in Building Canada Plan funding and \$2.7 million in Infrastructure Stimulus funding for community public infrastructure projects.

Now we are returning to more conservative spending, taking steps to ensure that the bottom line that we will leave for the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be fiscally sound and financially stable.

Mr. Speaker, we're approaching the end of our term as a 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. For four years we have focused on ensuring that the work we are doing and the initiatives we are putting in place will serve and benefit our territory and its residents long past the term of this government.

We have identified and implemented over 140 initiatives and investments dedicated to advancing the goals and priorities of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

These initiatives and investments, above and beyond our day-to-day work as government, recognize and reflect the importance of looking beyond the immediate and short-term needs of our territory and people, towards our vision and our future.

Our work towards a strong and independent North has positioned our government and territory as leaders in Canada in terms of recognizing Aboriginal rights and aspirations.

We have worked with our territory's regional leaders to identify and lay the groundwork for a political forum that will eventually allow NWT leaders to speak together on matters that concern our territory.

We have moved forward with pivotal initiatives, such as the Water Strategy, the NWT Species at Risk Act and the Wildlife Act. We have done so collaboratively with our Aboriginal partners, ensuring traditional knowledge, land claim agreements, and Aboriginal and treaty rights were properly addressed in the development of our legislation.

We have undertaken an ambitious four-year \$60 million investment program focused on reducing our dependence on imported oil, mitigating the impacts

of our energy use on the environment, and reducing our cost of living in the NWT.

In keeping with the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy introduced in 2007, the GNWT is on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its own operations to 10 percent below 2001 levels by the end of this year.

By the end of this Assembly we will have invested more than \$155 million in upgrades, construction, and retrofitting for public housing and homeownership units.

The implementation of our Healthy Choices Framework is promoting active living and healthy foods through the promotion of healthy choices. It is supported in part by increased investment in sport, recreation and youth funding and has expanded from promoting healthy eating, physical activity, and living tobacco free to include important work around injury prevention, mental illness, and healthy children and families.

Key investments have been made in school infrastructure, specifically in Inuvik, Fort Good Hope, Yellowknife, and N'dilo.

We have provided funding to schools to increase teacher resources and allow high schools to enhance their trade programs. In particular, the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative is working to improve education outcomes specifically for Aboriginal students.

We have made substantial progress in our eHealth initiatives to promote, protect, and provide for the health and well-being of our residents.

We have opened new territorial facilities to support our residents suffering from dementia and adults with special needs and disabilities.

We have made substantial investments in support of the business sector: almost \$10 million to promote the NWT as a tourism destination; over \$7 million for business development through our SEED program; almost \$14 million targeted for skills development and training; and \$1.4 million for a national marketing campaign to encourage Canadians to live and work in the NWT.

We have maintained a competitive tax regime for NWT businesses, including corporate and personal tax rates at or below the national average and no territorial sales tax.

We have completed the electricity rate review and adjusted electricity rates in the interest of lowering the cost of living and enabling businesses in many of our highest cost communities to be more competitive.

We have also made substantial infrastructure investments on highways, winter roads and airports that are improving connections between communities and helping address our high cost of living.

In recent months we have advanced a project considering the feasibility of a fibre optic data and satellite link down the Mackenzie Valley which could eventually lead to improved services to the residents in those communities.

We have made considerable investments to support policing in smaller communities, implementing the new backup policy and instituting programs aimed at reducing alcohol and drug-related crimes.

Changes to the capital planning process have increased efficiencies in the planning, designing, contracting and building of public infrastructure.

We have replaced the GNWT's 30-year-old financial information system with a new system for accountability and management, a key component of the government's efforts to implement modern management across the GNWT, as well as tools that will support the GNWT's information, analytical, reporting and business needs.

We are piloting single window service centres and government service officers as a means to make government services more accessible to residents, primarily in remote communities.

We have introduced legislation to create an NWT Heritage Fund that can serve as a source of long-term benefits for NWT residents.

And we are implementing the 20/20: A Brilliant North strategy to strengthen and support our public service and make it even more reflective of the population it serves.

In all of this, Mr. Speaker, we have also pursued an aggressive agenda at the federal level.

Never before has the Northwest Territories enjoyed the level of engagement from Canada or a Prime Minister that we have today.

We have successfully sold our message that northern development needs to be more than a political statement; that northern sovereignty is best realized by empowering the communities and the people that live here; that investment in our territory will result in opportunities for all Canadians; and most importantly, that NWT residents must have the capacity and authority to protect and manage public lands in the Northwest Territories to ensure that our territory's abundant resources are developed in a sustainable and responsible manner and that the financial and economic benefits from development in our territory stay in our territory.

For the first time in many years we have seen real progress on large files that we, as NWT residents, have been talking about for a long time.

In March the Government of Canada, through the National Energy Board, endorsed the construction of the Mackenzie Gas Project. The lengthy regulatory process is now complete.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has stated that the federal government will make a package available to deal with infrastructure issues and other challenges that arise with the project. We have discussed the possibility of a pipeline down the valley for decades, and it seems we are now only a few steps away.

We know also that the next federal budget should include the investment in the first stage of the Mackenzie Valley Highway from Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik. From the beginning we have been committed to moving this project forward. All-weather transportation is essential to our future prosperity; roads and bridges that can be used year round by our residents, tourists, business and industry.

We have been working closely with Ottawa and our Aboriginal partners to prepare the way through necessary project description reports and to add to our inventory of over 33 bridges that are now in place along the route of the future highway.

Mr. Speaker, any real foundation for the future will need to move beyond the reliance that we have on the federal government so that we can govern, guide and advance development in our territory ourselves. That is why we have worked towards and are now taking the next steps to negotiate a final Devolution Agreement with Canada.

Negotiations to devolve administrative responsibility for public lands and resources are about giving the future of the Northwest Territories a chance. They are about giving our young people opportunities to grow their territory and to achieve success.

Our term as a 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly has been focused on building and putting in place a foundation that will allow us to advance our territory to the next level.

Once completed, devolution will unlock the tools and instruments with which NWT residents and their governments can shape, build and sustain their future. Northern decision-making will serve to provide clarity to our regulatory regime, our taxation infrastructure, our land and water agreements and countless other areas in which our investment and business partners are asking us to provide some level of certainty.

Decisions about the North should be made in the North by northern people. It's easy to say, but at the same time it's incumbent on us to take an active role in shaping our destiny for ourselves. We can't simply wait for others to hand us the ball. At some point we have to seize it and run with it. Mr. Speaker, this government has done that.

Four years ago we set out to provide a foundation for our future. In everything that we have done -- the initiatives, the investment, and the manner in which we have chosen to implement and advance our work -- I believe that we are accomplishing what we set out to do.

We have invested in programs and services to strengthen our people, our businesses and our communities.

We have advanced the business case for national investment in our territory, its resources and development.

We have established tools to protect our environment and ensure that our development is sustainable for the long term.

We have worked with our territory's regional leaders to identify a governance structure that will allow us to work together.

And we have begun the all important final negotiations process to ensure that decision-making and resource revenues are turned over to the people of the NWT.

I believe we have a foundation in place from which we can honestly and realistically address our future. The task of realizing this future rests with those chosen to lead us forward.

When the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly adopted our vision titled "Northerners Working Together," we didn't just mean MLAs working together, we meant businesses working together, communities working together and governments working together.

Last year, collectively, with the NWT's Northern Leaders' Forum, I began the process of asking NWT residents to describe the future that they envisioned for themselves and their territory; to identify areas of importance and concern; and to articulate the direction of growth that they wanted for their territory over the next 20 to 30 years.

This Thursday I will table the results of our discussions in a document titled "Forging the Future – Anchored in our Past, Building on our Present." It reflects a vision of our future developed with the input of residents, young and old, industry, businesses, non-government and not-for-profit organizations.

It is my hope that this document and the priorities that it identifies will become part of the conversation that NWT residents must have in the next few months -- in our boardrooms, community meetings and summer assemblies -- and this fall here in the Legislative Assembly as we elect the next Government of the Northwest Territories.

We will need to continue to work together if we are to fully tap into the possibilities that we know exist in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 17-16(6):  
GENUINE MACKENZIE VALLEY FUR SALES

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, by actively supporting the harvesting and marketing of wild fur through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking action to diversify the economy. This will provide all communities and regions with opportunities as identified in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's vision of Northerners Working Together.

Over \$815,000 worth of genuine Mackenzie Valley furs were sold at a wild fur auction held in Seattle this past March, and over 90 percent of the pelts shipped to auction were sold. This is an increase of 47 percent from last year's sales, and most importantly, our trappers and their communities will benefit from these increased sales.

This year there was an increase in demand for Northwest Territories furs, especially from buyers in Russia and China. Five genuine Mackenzie Valley fur species achieved top prices at auction, outperforming the same species all across Canada and the United States. These species are mink, marten, fisher, arctic fox and red fox. Top prices worthy of noting is our marten with a top price of \$150.37, arctic fox at \$67.91 and, finally, red fox at \$164.92.

These prices underscore what we already know, that fur from the Northwest Territories is amongst the best in the world and our trappers are very skilled at their trade. Providing quality wild fur is no easy task, but our Northwest Territories trappers regularly offer high quality, well-handled fur pelts for sale at auction.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6) so that all Ministers' statements filed with the Clerk can be delivered today.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BOB MCLEOD:** To date nearly \$1 million has been generated in sales for trappers and their families across the Northwest Territories.

Fur sales last year were negatively affected by the downturn in the economy. Now we are seeing the effects of the global recovery. Throughout dramatic swings in market, the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program has proven very beneficial to trappers. The program provides stability through guarantees on prices and benefits.

The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program is about promoting self-sufficiency and self-reliance. It also aims to create economic diversity for residents in the territory.

We still have two options remaining this season and I hope to see even more high sales so our trappers and their families will continue to benefit.



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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 18-16(6):  
SHELTER POLICY REVIEW

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes that shelter is fundamental to the overall long-term well-being of the Northwest Territories residents and is a major factor in creating sustainable, vibrant, safe communities, one of the priorities of the Legislative Assembly.

The GNWT continues to focus on ensuring, where appropriate and necessary, that there is sufficient supply of affordable, adequate and suitable housing to meet the housing needs of NWT residents. To guide housing activities that support this mandate, the GNWT has undertaken a Shelter Policy review. I rise today to update Members and the general public on the work being done for this review.

The Shelter Policy review is a broad-based examination of the government's approach to housing programs, services and supports to residents. This review will provide a way forward that will outline the long-term visions for housing in the Northwest Territories, with a particular focus on policies and resources required to fulfill the GNWT and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's mandate regarding housing supply that is affordable, adequate and suitable to meet the needs of NWT residents.

We will be looking at the approach to programs, services and supports along the spectrum or continuum of shelter needs experienced by Northwest Territories residents. This includes areas such as homelessness, transitional and supportive housing, independent social housing, market rentals and homeownership. Consideration for emerging needs and population demographics -- a growing population of seniors, for example -- will be some of the many factors considered under this review.

The Shelter Policy review is a collaborative effort between the NWT Housing Corporation and the Department of Executive. As this is a broad-based review of programs, services and support that the GNWT provides in the area of shelter, the departments of Health and Social Services, Justice, and Education, Culture and Employment will also be participating in the review.

Through the Shelter Policy review we are looking at how we have delivered housing in the past, how we can currently deliver housing, and how we may deliver housing in the future. This Shelter Policy review provides an important opportunity to shape the future direction of housing programs, services and support delivered to NWT residents.

The Shelter Policy review also includes an evaluation of the NWT Housing Corporation's Housing Choices suite of homeownership programs and a review of the NWT Housing Corporation's approach to how it calculates rent under its Public Housing Program. Both of these are in progress now.

The GNWT will need to hear from NWT residents on issues and challenges around housing if we are going to be able to address housing needs in the Territories. The Shelter Policy review process will include engagement with NWT residents and clients of GNWT housing programs, services and support, as well as regional workshops with community representatives. These engagement activities will be taking place over the course of May and June.

The engagement with Northerners on Shelter Policy will also take into account what the GNWT has heard during the consultation with Northerners on issues associated with poverty over the last few months. Housing has been one of the central themes raised during these meetings and a lot of suggestions on future direction were received. Information collected during these consultations will be of value during the Shelter Policy review. Views of Northerners on priorities related to housing were also obtained through a survey that was recently completed and this information will also be considered as the Shelter Policy review proceeds.

The recommendations from the review will help the GNWT determine how to best address housing challenges and pressures in communities, and increase the supply of suitable and affordable housing in NWT communities, including housing for community service providers. An overall approach to these and various other housing issues will be examined.

While we were fortunate to have seen an investment in housing infrastructure over the past five years of \$100 million by the GNWT and \$100 million by the federal government which has resulted in new construction, renovation, and repairs that were clearly needed, we still need to examine our overall approach to declining Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation funding for the operation and maintenance of Public Housing Program units.

Based on this review, the GNWT expects to put in place a consistent policy framework around the principles and interrelationship of GNWT housing activities which will allow us to fully address the various housing needs of NWT residents. Reviewing our Shelter Policy is one of the actions that the GNWT identified under our strategic initiative to reduce the cost of living. We expect the results of this review will be available during the 2011-2012 fiscal year and look forward to announcing a renewed approach to housing

delivery in the NWT that will assist the GNWT in providing a balanced and coordinated approach to delivering housing to those in need and for those whom the current approach may not be working.

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

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FOREST FIRE READINESS

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our news these days is full of images and descriptions of natural disasters around the world: earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, hurricanes, tornadoes. Many times we sit and watch the news and say we sympathize but thank God that's not here. Not to be predicting the negative today, I want to say that we do have disaster on our doorstep.

It's impossible to think that our neighbour, the province of Alberta, could have almost virtually lost the infrastructure of a town of 7,000, thankfully with no loss of life or injury to this point. Alberta is burning. There are 115 fires in northern Alberta right now, 36 out of control and a summer forecast for record heat and dry conditions. These predictions, these forecasts affect our territory and need us as legislators to pause and think what we're going to do and how we're going to address this potential for fire hazard this year.

If a province with the communications system, infrastructure, technology and financial resources as that of our neighbours in Alberta, as I said, have almost lost a community the size of Slave Lake to fire, how will we fare if we are subjected to similar circumstances this summer?

I'd like to later today ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources if we have sufficiently budgeted for our fire season. What contingencies do we have? What reciprocal agreements do we have with other jurisdictions to assist us if such an emergency occurs? What kind of emergency preparedness do we have in our communities at this time? What's the status of our community firebreaks? Just in general, what has our government done to prepare itself in the eventuality that these conditions, these climatic conditions which are out of our control, should cause disaster in this territory as well this summer?

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to express my great disappointment with the

recent decision by the Minister of Health and Social Services to cancel the Midwifery Program in Yellowknife.

Two years ago at this time Members on this side of the House articulated concern for the long-term survival and sustainability of this program in Yellowknife, the NWT's largest community. In the two years since, many Yellowknife families have been able to use the services of YK's one and only midwife, but many have not. All reports have been positive. Mothers are very pleased both with the birthing options available to them and the services provided by the midwife.

Since October 2005 Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority has provided midwifery services in Yellowknife. When announcing the new program in 2005, the Health Minister of the day promised funding to expand the program from one to two midwives. Five and a half years later the program still operated with just one midwife. Today, six years after the program was started, there is no midwifery service in Yellowknife. It should be obvious to the Minister from the number of protesters outside the Legislative Assembly today -- about 70, I'm told -- that there is a demand in Yellowknife for midwifery services.

The practice of midwifery is an ancient one and I believe one well suited to the unique geographical conditions of the NWT. We should be expanding this particular program to more communities, not reducing it. We should be considering the practice of traditional midwifery in our smaller communities, something that our ancestors did naturally many years ago.

The department has stated that it will conduct a Midwifery Program review and expansion analysis, although no time frame has been identified to receive the results of that review. I support that action as necessary to properly plan for, develop, and then fund a viable Midwifery Program, but the Yellowknife Midwifery Program should be continued while that review and analysis is undertaken.

In his letter to Members last week, the Minister indicated he wants to receive input from MLAs. Well, here's mine: find the money and reinstate the Midwifery Program at Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Programs and services are fundamental to saving our vibrant communities. To have healthy communities we must have programs and services in place in all 33

communities in the Northwest Territories so that all our children can grow up healthy, elders can retire in their home communities and not have to worry about being sent away, people can find work in their communities and raise their families, and also apply for support to local economies to support them.

Not having programs and services gives us a situation where we have have and have-not communities when it comes to programs and services. That must stop.

In every community the fundamental pillar for community self-reliance is programs, services, and ensuring that the well-being of the residents are taken care of, regardless whether it's the aged, the ill, and the young children, so that the programs and services we deliver throughout the territory are universal, you can get a program in Tsiigehtchic similar to a program in Yellowknife.

Programs are what make communities. Without having the proper resources in place for programs and services, we have some 30 percent of communities in the Northwest Territories that don't have wellness programs, nursing programs, policing services. Thirty percent. That has to stop. Without programs and services in all communities, core services are being delivered in the have communities and the have-not communities are suffering because of it. We must stop this practice and give all residents of the Northwest Territories the proper services and programs they require to live meaningful lives, live in the communities that they come from, and not be stuck in the situation of which community is vibrant and which one is not. We have to ensure essential services are delivered in all our communities and they do meet the requirements that the residents require.

At the appropriate time I will have questions for the Minister of Health.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TEACHERS HOUSING IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In small, remote communities in Nunakput, recruitment and retention of good teachers is a serious problem. Every year we have a huge number of teachers coming and going. This affects the learning of our students.

In the community of Tuktoyaktuk we have a teacher who will be retiring after almost 30 years teaching in the community. I had the honour of being one of Anna Marie Cameron's students, as were my children, and many others also had the honour, as well. Her absence from the school will leave a large void that will not be easy to fill. In addition, all of her hard work will never be forgotten. However,

unfortunately, she will not be retiring alone. Many others will also be leaving the community of Tuktoyaktuk: Mrs. Robin Hayslip, 27 years; John and Monica Dawson, 10 years; Gary Dufferais, nine years; and Sandra Roberts, two years.

The contributions of these teachers in the community of Tuktoyaktuk will never be forgotten. Their legacies of developing capacity in Tuktoyaktuk will benefit the future generations of students and youth in the community. The teachers in housing subsidy contract with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in our community is extremely important to the ongoing quality of our education and the success of our students. In the past, the Minister committed to continuing this arrangement and effort for the renewal of the extension. The contract expired March 31, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, it's very important for our schools and students. Many communities lack adequate accommodation for their teachers. This upcoming school year, the recruitment and retention of good teachers in small, isolated communities such as Tuktoyaktuk and all across the territory is critical to the continuing success of our students all across the territory, Mr. Speaker.

Recently, this government initiated the Come Make Your Mark campaign. This campaign is an attempt to attract people to our North. But many residents have said how can we attract people to the North when housing conditions are so desperate. Housing has been identified as one of the most important reasons when it comes to recruitment and retention of teachers.

These developments go to the very core of our challenge facing small communities.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. JACOBSON:** Mr. Speaker, these developments go to the very core of the challenge facing small and remote communities, especially in the Nunakput region. Due to the unique geographic challenges and the enormous operating costs, our communities are continuously disadvantaged while trying to provide the same services to the people that we serve and the students, Mr. Speaker.

I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEED FOR A NEW SCHOOL IN TROUT LAKE

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

I am pleased that my colleagues are speaking about the needs of the small communities today, Mr. Speaker. It is the basic expectation of communities and parents that their children will have a school to go to. While this government has been out building super schools and super bridges, it has not been meeting that very basic expectation in Trout Lake.

As I have already repeated in this House many times, Trout Lake has been without a school since the old Charles Tetcho School burned down many years ago. What was supposed to be a temporary measure holding classes in the recreation centre has turned into something long term and it's unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

Once again the community raised this with me as a priority when I visited last month. Like any community, of course, they want their young people to succeed, and for this they need access to good education. Teachers and students are doing their best with what they have, but we are letting them down by not giving them an appropriate living environment; a real school, not just a recreation centre.

No larger community would tolerate this situation. When will this government start paying attention to the needs of our small communities? I feel like a broken record, having raised this so many times, but, unfortunately, the Minister has also been a broken record by saying again and again that we need to have discussions. When do the discussions stop and when do we see some real action, Mr. Speaker?

Enough talking. Let's get out the hammers and nails and give the children of Trout Lake the school they need and deserve. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to speak for the small communities I represent in the Sahtu.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Colville Lake, like Tsiigehtchic, Gameti, Sachs Harbour and some other smaller communities in the North, is in desperate need of fair services in their community. Mr. Speaker, I was reading a note this morning from Colville Lake from last year, and these elders were talking about fair access to nurses in health care centres. These two elders stated that when they went to the hospital, because these other people in the community that are trained mainly as the CHRs are less qualified, they gave them apples and oranges and told them to come back when they

were feeling better. Later on the nurse came in from Fort Good Hope and they looked after them.

They're saying why is it that we can't get a nurse to spend a week or longer, because these other people, they're not qualified to go any further than dispense Tylenol or other kinds of pills, and they really can't diagnose any type of sickness.

My people need help in our communities. We need to start there. First things first with our education, with our justice, with our health; we need to start there, Mr. Speaker. This government needs to know that there are about 10 communities without an RCMP presence in their communities. We have other communities that have RCMP so it's not an issue for them. In the Sahtu we need nurses. It's an issue. We need midwifery in our communities. We've done that before and we can do it again. Let's go back to our people and let's show them that they're the ones who take control. Let's help them.

I will have questions for the Minister after, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO YELLOWKNIFE FILMMAKER FRANCE BENOIT

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today to salute the artistic and social advocacy achievements of my constituent France Benoit. Ms. Benoit has just returned from the screening of her short film, Hand to Toe, at North America's largest and most prestigious documentary film festival, Hot Docs, in Toronto.

Ms. Benoit is the first filmmaker from the NWT to have a film selected by Hot Docs. Hand to Toe - An Exploration in the Art of Giving, played to sold-out crowds last week in Toronto. It will be screened in 10 other film festivals in both Canada and the United States.

The film is director France Benoit and videographer Gary Milligan's intimate portrait of the Yellowknife Salvation Army's weekly foot washing program. Every Wednesday men and women from the streets gather to share an evening meal and have their feet washed. Winter and summer they take a load off, swap stories and experience warmth, water and tenderness. In return, the volunteers who provide this service make meaningful connections with their community. Hand to Toe dives foot first into these lively nights with this artful black and white exploration into the art of giving.

Thanks to financial support supplied on very short notice from the North Slave office of ITI, Ms. Benoit was able to attend both the Hot Docs Film Festival and the forum, a major marketing endeavour where filmmakers are able to meet with producers and

broadcasters from around the world. The National Film Board has been impressed by her visual exploration of the art of giving and has decided to fund France to direct another short film using the same techniques and artistry.

Over the last year -- and thanks in no small part to the advocacy of Ms. Benoit and others over recent years -- ITI has been gathering the facts and forging partnerships for a renewed approach to supporting and developing our home-grown new media industry. There has been broad and inclusive discussion with more than 20 of our new media artists and entrepreneurs. Practitioners have been involved in a major review of the industry and development of recommendations for government support programs. For the first time this year the NWT economic review and outlook has begun reporting information on the new media industry's contribution to our economy.

I congratulate the Minister for this work and the approach being taken, and look forward to an informative product and ambitious recommendations. Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Ms. France Benoit for this major recognition.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, I and others, as you've already heard today, have been raising the delivery of midwifery services throughout the NWT as a concern and an opportunity. These services continue to remain popular and provide significant value to residents of the Northwest Territories. Until recently, there have been three midwives practicing in the Northwest Territories, two in Fort Smith and one in Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah.

Recently, the Minister announced that the midwifery services here in Yellowknife have been placed on hold and that a review of the services throughout the Northwest Territories is currently underway.

Mr. Speaker, the Midwifery Profession Act, proclaimed in 2005, provides for the licensing, registration, and regulation of registered midwives in the Northwest Territories. Midwives have been active intermittently in Yellowknife since 2006 and in Fort Smith for over 10 years. Midwives are health care professionals who provide low-risk women with the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour, delivery and after birth. Their care includes preventative measures, detections of complications in mother and child, and accessing further medical assistance if there is a need.

The midwife has an important role as a health counsellor, an educator, not only for the mother but also for her family and the community. Midwives may practice in any setting, such as homes, clinics or hospitals. Women in midwives' care do not normally see a physician unless complications arise. That reduces the workload on general practitioners currently performing routine examinations on expectant mothers. Obstetricians and gynaecologists are open to the partnerships with midwives to make sure that mother and child receive quality care.

Mr. Speaker, midwifery is publicly funded in five jurisdictions, including the Northwest Territories. The province of Alberta has recently allowed insurance coverage to midwife services. Although there is growing popularity for midwives here, an increasing number of expectant mothers are being turned away due to the limited funding for midwifery programs.

Mr. Speaker, there is clear public support for midwife services here in the Northwest Territories, including here in Yellowknife. As a government, we need to take advantage of the opportunity at hand and expand the role of midwives throughout the Northwest Territories. There is a clear opportunity for us to support community and regional births and reduce the overall costs on our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, later today I'll be asking the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services some questions on the current review being conducted by the department, and the future of midwives within Health and Social Services here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday I spoke about what's happening on the streets of Yellowknife and a young woman of 16 who is caught up in drug abuse and risky behaviour. Her mother is struggling to find help for her, with only frustration and anxiety to show for it. The lesson her mother is learning is that she can count on no one for help. Not school officials, not Social Services and not the police. As she says, this has been a nightmare and it just keeps getting worse.

I'm going to use her words to tell you this story, Mr. Speaker. "The RCMP were called to the mall because three girls, aged 15 and 16, were drinking alcohol in public. One of the girls was my daughter. The mother of one of the other girls called me. When I got to the mall my daughter was gone." Mr. Speaker, she'd already told the RCMP her daughter was on the run, but they never even called her when they encountered her daughter and took

away the vodka. The mother asked the police why the kids were not taken into custody until their parents could pick them up. The answer, she says, was they just kept going around and around to the fact that they took the alcohol away from them.

Mr. Speaker, this was another chance to intervene for the good of these young people that got away, but that wasn't the mother's first dealings with the police.

She had talked to them about her daughter's two thefts, totalling close to \$1,000. During another incident in the mall, her daughter admitted to the RCMP to taking the money, but they said it still wasn't enough to lay charges and they refused to escort her daughter home.

Mr. Speaker, this seems like wilful blindness on the part of the police. It's a ready willingness to let young people go their own way no matter how destructive their behaviour. The police seem determined not to use minor infractions of the law as a tool or an aid in turning a young person's behaviour around. Obviously, these young people were supposed to be in school in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, these young people are not legally adults until they turn 19 years old. When they're in the throes of destructive behaviour, and maybe even falling into addictions, they are not capable of making good decisions for themselves. It's wrong for our educators, social services staff and police to pretend otherwise for the sake of convenience or cost cutting. When we refuse to take action and refuse to help parents struggling with all their hearts to save their children, just what are we doing?

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. RAMSAY:** To answer that, I'll quote this young woman's mother again. "So here I am, losing sleep, wondering if my child is safe, what she is doing, and praying that the RCMP will not come to my door and tell me she is dead." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FORT RESOLUTION YOUTH CENTRE

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the youth of Fort Resolution are pleased to see a beautiful youth centre being constructed in their community. On behalf of the community of Fort Resolution and its youth, I'd like to thank the Hamlet of Fort Resolution and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs for their roles in making this youth centre a reality.

Mr. Speaker, in order to maximize the use of the youth centre, the Department of MACA must put

some funding towards the community for hiring a qualified youth worker that can develop and implement youth programs at the youth centre and within the community.

Mr. Speaker, the days of just supervising youth are long gone and now we need to deliver some constructive, meaningful programs and activities that will build upon the infrastructure that will be finished soon.

There is a need for youth programs and youth activities, youth development work, counselling programs, to mention a few things that are essential to ensure that we optimize the youth centre. However, Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Fort Resolution does not receive enough funding in the youth area to hire a qualified youth worker.

Mr. Speaker, I am informed by the hamlet that their budget is very limited and they cannot afford to hire a qualified youth worker that would be able to develop and deliver the programs for the youth of Fort Resolution. Many times in this House I have spoken of youth, and I think that everyone in this Assembly knows that the youth are our future and we must do all we can to ensure the youth are impacted positively as much as possible.

Mr. Speaker, a good, solid strategic plan that looks at improving the lives of the youth today will have long-lasting benefits for all the people of the NWT tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleagues, I rise today with great concern that the midwifery services have been temporarily suspended in Yellowknife effective May 6<sup>th</sup>. I believe that this is an incredible disappointment to many families who want access to this excellent service that was being provided to mothers and newborns.

Over the past several years many MLAs, including myself, have been calling upon this government to expand the much needed services in our community, and now the Department of Health and Social Services is conducting a program review and expansion analysis to develop options for the territorial Midwifery Program. Mr. Speaker, all they had to do was just listen to MLAs to hear it was working.

Well, this is both a welcomed and disappointing surprise, Mr. Speaker, because at the same time we've been calling for the expansion, now they have to shut down and think about how they want to do it.

Mr. Speaker, there was only one person providing midwifery services here in Yellowknife and truthfully was working way beyond any person's natural ability and capacity, while at the same time, sadly, they had to turn people away because the demand was so great and the need for this service has continued to grow.

As we all know very well, midwives in Canada are trained specialists who care for women throughout their pregnancy and birth, and further they offer aftercare services to mothers and babies for the first few weeks after that birth. Mr. Speaker, in my view, the midwives are a fundamental part of our health care team of our future in the Northwest Territories.

As I've said before, in Fort Smith there are two midwives providing these services, and I continue to hear rave reviews of the work and services they provide their community where resident physicians are sometimes difficult and hard to find. To add to that point, last year in my travels, I crossed paths with the National Midwifery Conference being held in Edmonton. The midwives from all across our nation who were taking part in that program discussing what they're doing there had nothing but great things to say about the examples being done here in the Northwest Territories. More specifically, they commented about the great work being done in Fort Smith as a blueprint to the future success of midwifery in Canada.

Building upon that success in Yellowknife, there has been only one midwife for some time. It was a huge challenge, but clearly she was up to it. Now the local program has been suspended. If I can describe it this way: the program here in Yellowknife was a gleaming beacon of success with unprecedented support from the public, health care partners, mothers, families, and politicians like myself. With support like that, perhaps it was doomed from the beginning.

I will have questions for the Minister later today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

### Acknowledgements

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 4-16(6): CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE MR. EDWIN LINDBURGH

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to advise the House of the passing of a charismatic, true man of the North: Mr. Edwin Lindburgh of Fort Simpson. He was 81 years of age on May 3, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Lindburgh's wife, Sue, his daughter, Carol, and all his family and many friends. He will

be greatly missed by the people of Fort Simpson, Nahendeh, and people from all over the world who met Edwin Lindburgh over the years.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new chief public health officer, Dr. Lorne Clearsky. Dr. Clearsky is the community medicine specialist from the Waywayseecappo First Nation in Manitoba. He graduated from the University of Manitoba medical school in 1990, completed his family practice residency in 1992, and began working in northern Manitoba for five years as a fly-in physician for First Nations communities.

He comes to us from the Calgary Health Region where he was a deputy medical officer, the medical lead for the Aboriginal Health Program, and clinical assistant professor at the Department of Medicine at the University of Calgary.

I'd like to ask you all to join me in welcoming Dr. Clearsky to a long and productive work time here in the Northwest Territories and get to know the people of the Northwest Territories and provide his valuable skills to them. Thank you and welcome.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Wendy Lahey, a constituent of Weledeh and a keystone in the democratic process towards responsible midwifery services.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 80-16(6): DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services and are in regard to my Member's statement. In this day and age we still have critical programs and services not being delivered to a lot of our more isolated communities. I think in order to have healthy and vibrant communities, the building block of any community is to develop a healthy side to those communities. I'd like to ask the Minister what his department is doing to ensure we have essential programs and services delivered in all

communities so we have healthy and vibrant communities.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government we are doing a number of things collectively. Health looks at all the health services with the nursing stations and with the medical side, the social services side, the child welfare piece. We have significant education presence in communities. We have Municipal and Community Affairs that is there with communities as they work on the services that lead to a better quality of life as well as on the recreation side. We have ITI there supporting business, local business and small business, to do work at the community level to help with the economy. We have Transportation there building infrastructure with Public Works and Services.

Collectively as a government we spend a significant portion of our \$1.3 billion in the communities trying to deal with the issues that the Member has talked about so passionately over the last 16 years.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, I think it's important that we do as government seem to have a lot of programs and services in the larger centres. A lot of the time we lose sight of those programs and services that do not exist in a lot of our communities. I think I've talked about respite care and midwifery, caregiving programs, wellness programs, and even mental health and addictions programs. Those are the building blocks for healthy communities. I'd like to ask the Minister what the department is doing to ensure that it streamlines the funding that is going into the area of Health and Social Services, and ensuring that there's a base funding for programs and services in all communities so that at least they are meeting the minimum needs of all our communities.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** If I may use the specific example that the Member referenced, the midwifery review is going to look at potential birthing services in other communities across the North, keeping in mind that the Mackenzie Delta, Nahendeh, Tu Nedhe, Nunakput, Sahtu, Monfwi, and the Deh Cho have no birthing services of any kind. As we look towards what is the best service and how do we provide those services, that's one of the key factors we have to keep in mind.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, in order for programs and services to exist, you need bodies on the ground. It does take investment. We have health centres in the Northwest Territories that don't have nurses in them. I think it's a shame in this day and age that we are funding health centres without the core staff to run them. I'd like to ask the Minister what he is doing to ensure we have nursing services, and programs and services in communities where we

have the basic infrastructure already on the ground, yet we're not delivering programs and services.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** As a government we have committed many millions of dollars coming up with our own program for nursing in the North to train Northerners up to the degree level. We have expanded into the nurse practitioner range. We are trying to work with nurse graduates to give them enough additional training so that they can actually go out into the communities where they may be by themselves or where they may in fact be playing a lead role like community health nurses or nurses in charge. While we still have some ways to go, we have minimized our reliance on local nurses and casual nurses and remain committed to training Northerners for those roles.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, I think that people have to realize that a lot of times our services in the communities include one doctor's visit a month. If you're lucky you might see a social worker once a month. The same thing with regard to core service positions, whether it's dental care once a year. That's the type of stuff that people want to see improvement on.

What are we doing to improve the number of days that doctors and professionals spend in those communities and expand that service so they can see more doctors visiting, more nursing days in our communities, and the same thing with dental care?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Last week, speaking as the Minister of Finance, I gave a fiscal update that indicated the financial fiscal constraints that we are under as a government and that our ability to deal with a lot of new program demands is very limited. This applies specifically as we look at the very great demand from the communities to look at service improvements. We will do what we can through the business planning process, through the forced growth that we do have available, but we are limited by our fiscal constraints that we are currently under. Through the business planning process coming up for 2012-2013 we'll be looking at trying to address more effectively some of the issues that the Member has mentioned.

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

#### QUESTION 81-16(6): FOREST FIRE READINESS

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I referred to in my Member's statement earlier today, I think we all have some concerns after seeing what's transpiring in northern Alberta right now with regard to forest fires. The situation that occurred in Slave Lake where within such a short



time span a forest fire broke out and destroyed almost the entire community, are there any observations, lessons to be learned for us here in the North on how that whole situation transpired? Is that something that the Minister is going to look at to avoid such a tragedy in our territory?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we've observed, of course, is every community's worst nightmare, where there is a confluence of time and events, and circumstances and conditions of weather and dryness that resulted in significant wind that resulted in a catastrophic event.

For ourselves in the Northwest Territories we have our fire crews in place. While we recognize that it is much drier than normal, we have our contracts with bombers and the rotary wing craft. We have been working long and hard in the communities to do FireSmart programs. We have changed our command and control structures when it comes to dealing with fires and making decisions at the fire site up through the chain of command so that people on the ground can now be able to respond quickly and efficiently with knowledge that they have, and not have to wait for it to bump its way up from Fort Smith or Yellowknife or some other place.

As we prepare for the fire season, we look to the south. Nightly I'll look to the sky and as I say my goodnight prayers, I'm always praying for rain these days.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Last year the province of British Columbia budgeted \$50 million for fire suppression and spent \$500 million. What does our government currently have budgeted for fire suppression in the Northwest Territories? What contingency do we have should we end up with a worse fire season than normal?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We recognize the way we have set up the funding with the fire program that we will require supplementary appropriations. It was specifically designed that way so that we could monitor more closely and have the funding spent on an as-required basis. We anticipate we will be coming forward as the fire season proceeds for supplementary appropriations. The question will be for how much.

If I may point out, in B.C. and in Slave Lake what you have is fires very close to communities and large communities. In B.C. most of the money was spent protecting communities that were affected by fire. They had little resources even with the tens of millions, hundreds of millions that were spent to actually fight fires that were not tied to protecting communities. We are going to be doing our best to

protect our communities in the Northwest Territories, doing the preparatory work, and we will spend the resources that we need to, to protect those communities.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** What reciprocal agreements do we have in place with other jurisdictions in Canada to provide them with support if our fire season is not making busy our crews and equipment that are on standby? What agreements do we have in place to lend support where it may be required in neighbouring jurisdictions and where they may come to our aid should we require their assistance?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We have a number of agreements. We have the MARS agreement, which is applicable across Canada for mutual aid and reciprocal response. We have the Northwest Compact Agreement covering the western provinces and the northwest States, Canada/U.S. Reciprocal Agreements. We have the NWT-Alberta Border Agreements and agreements with Parks Canada for fires in national parks.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of fires in the Northwest Territories are triggered by lightning. Some others are started by human carelessness. Given the anticipated dry season that we'll be facing this summer, is the Department of Environment and Natural Resources doing anything to create more public awareness about the dangers of discarding of cigarettes or leaving campfires not completely put out? What is the department doing on the awareness side of the issue?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We have our own ongoing public education program. Every year, as the season progresses and we find out how dry it is and what the risk is, then as the rating gets more extreme, we increase the public awareness.

We work with communities, as well. Many communities have no burning bans around campfires. If it gets bad enough, there may be no campfires. We are already engaged in the process of making people aware, and everybody that's been outside knows already how dry it is and how low water levels are, and that we are potentially facing a very incendiary fire season. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 82-16(6):  
YELLOWKNIFE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister for Health and Social Services, and I want to follow up on my statement about the cancellation of the Midwifery Program.

I recognize that cancellation may not be the correct word. The program was suspended, and it was suspended at the request of the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, but that authority has never, ever been funded adequately for the Midwifery Program, and it has actually put them into a deficit, from what I understand. To my way of thinking, the Minister's acceptance of Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority's request shows no willingness on the part of the department to find the money to keep the program going. I'd like to ask the Minister to explain why the department considered it okay for a well used, successful program to be cancelled or suspended -- your choice of words -- outright, without careful consideration of the impact that it would have. Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was careful consideration given to the request. Yellowknife has, in the Northwest Territories, the best services available on the medical front, of nurses, nurse practitioners, doctors, obstetricians, everybody that you could possibly need to have a successful pregnancy, to do the prenatal and postnatal work. Yes, midwifery is nice to have if we can afford it.

I pointed out earlier that every region here outside of the large centres, the Sahtu, Nunakput, Tu Nedhe, Nahendeh, Mackenzie Delta, Monfwi, and Deh Cho, don't have birthing services at all. So we have committed to a plan and we're going to get that plan done so that for the next business planning session, that there will be a consideration for the recommendations put forward as a result of that review. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister, I think, for that answer. I appreciate that we have excellent facilities here for birthing, and it's not so much that we have facilities we should cancel one program because we have another program that allows for a certain kind of birthing. There are also the advantages to be considered of a secondary birthing program, and one of them is financial. I think that certainly midwifery is a cheaper alternative to hospitals. I appreciate also that the Minister talks about areas that don't have midwifery services or even birthing services. Absolutely, we should be expanding the program, not cancelling, as he's doing.

I appreciate the fact that we're doing a review. I'd like to ask the Minister who is going to be involved in this program review and expansion analysis. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** As the Member encourages us to expand the programs here in Yellowknife, I just want to point out that I

recollect sitting at that witness table and listening to the Member's deep concern that we were going to overspend our supplementary reserve, and cautioning us and urging us to be fiscally prudent and responsible, which we're trying to do.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a process. I don't believe the consultant has been picked yet to do this, but there will be work with the current midwives, the medical community and stakeholders. They'll be taken across the Northwest Territories to see what's possible, should the time come when resources are available for us to consider those types of program expansions. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I would encourage the department and the Minister to get as broad representation from users and potential users of this kind of a program as possible.

I'd like to know from the Minister, if they're going to a contractor to do this review and analysis, would the Minister and the department be open to a non-government organization putting in a proposal to do this review and analysis? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** There will be an RFP put out and folks can apply for that. That will be an open kind of process, and if they are the ones chosen and meet the requirements, then they'll get the job. Thank you.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. I would hope that when the Minister and the department evaluate these proposals that they look at the time frame that is being proposed at the time that they do that evaluation.

Can the Minister advise me and the House when we can expect the results of this review and analysis? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** As I indicated in the previous answer, the intent is over the life of this current fiscal year to get the work done and have it ready so that when the new 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly comes into place and the government is up and running, that they'll be able to consider the results, findings and recommendations as they look at the 2012-13 business planning process. Thank you.

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

#### QUESTION 83-16(6):

##### YELLOWKNIFE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I note that the Minister has said that full obstetrical hospital services are available, so the loss of the Midwifery Program is not serious here in Yellowknife. This, of course, misses the

point. Midwifery delivers a service that, in fact, ensures the health of young mothers and their babies far beyond surviving the experience.

Our current underfunded service is probably delivering big savings and enjoys enormous client support, but the promise since 2009 hasn't been carried out. At the very least, a thorough analysis of the program can best be carried out while we have the program and community linkages to include in the analysis. Why must this program be cancelled during that analysis? Thank you.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is aware, we are, as a government, facing significant financial constraints and that constraint is translated and transferred down to all the agencies and boards that we fund, which are health boards, education boards, housing boards, and all the other very many programs we run. Yellowknife Health and Social Services made a determination that it was not effective to run it with one midwife, so they made a decision to put these services on hold pending the result of the broader review. That's what they've done and I supported their decision. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Following up on my colleague's question, the first step of the analysis will undoubtedly be assembly of the terms of reference for the review. We want to get off on the right foot, so let's ensure that any review incorporates the concerns, insights and experience of the clients and stakeholders, that's past and present clients of the program, the NWT and Nunavut Public Health Association who are on record in support, and even the Dene Cultural Institute to flesh out revival of this traditional practice. Will the Minister commit to including stakeholder groups in the development of the terms of reference for this analysis, and when will that take place? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Member is aware of the response to his petition that the former Minister of Health and Social Services wrote to him, and we will honour the points and the content of that commitment, that written response to his petition. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks for that response. Of course, it's good to hear it in the House, having the record of the past Minister making claims that haven't come to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot of talk about the money here. The money involved is actually quite modest, even for a backup for this, and we all are aware of the areas in the government that could be tightened up for this sort of thing. When you look at \$1.4 billion, this is a priority that's been stated by our people, so will the Minister immediately reinstate

the Midwifery Program, add the necessary backup at modest cost, and conduct the review while it is in operation just as we do in all other program reviews? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, the decision to suspend services was made by the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority. Just listening to Member's statements, many of the small community Members laying out all the things that they require for basic services in their communities, some of them fairly modest in terms of cost if you just looked at them individually. So we have, and I've also stood up in this House and laid out the constraints that we're under as a government. So the answer to the Member's question would be no.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister seems adept at pointing out the small communities and the service problems that they have there, things that Members on this side of the House regularly talk about. I'm getting kind of tired of that response when we're talking about specific issues here. I'm wondering what will the Minister do in terms of getting this back in service immediately, and does he see this as a temporary cancellation extending for years and years. What is the end point, the actual implementation of recommendations as a result of the analysis? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The concerns of small communities are legitimate ones. Yellowknife has the good fortune as the capital and the largest community to have by far the best services in just about every area. So we cannot diminish those concerns of the small communities when they are often struggling for basic services. The plan and timeline for this particular review, it will be there for the 17th Assembly to consider as they move into their business planning process. Thank you.

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

#### QUESTION 84-16(6):

##### SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice and I want to follow up on some questions I had to the Minister of Health and Social Services last week regarding youth at risk in our communities across the Northwest Territories. I get very disturbed when I hear stories from parents who are having a very difficult time with their sons or daughters and they run into trouble with the RCMP -- in this instance got caught drinking alcohol -- and no charges are

laid or no consequence to the young people; their alcohol is poured out.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice what action he can take in trying to address these opportunities to perhaps turn a young person's life around instead of looking the other way. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This particular incident, along with others in the Northwest Territories, is under RCMP "G" Division. They have their own federal jurisdiction laws that they have to follow, and what I can do as the Minister of Justice is to sit down and meet with the chief superintendent to highlight the concerns that are being addressed here today. I'm sure it's been addressed within "G" Division already and I'm sure that there are processes being undertaken.

With that, I can pass on the concern that the Members have risen to the chief superintendent and discuss what action needs to be taken. Mahsi.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I thank the Minister for that. Having alcohol open in a public place is against the law, Mr. Speaker, and it's even worse if you're a 16-year-old young person in a public place that has open liquor. The other side of this, too, is the RCMP encounter these young people and they don't even hold them until their parents get there. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could look into situations like that as well where obviously young people are breaking the law, why aren't they held by the RCMP until their parents can show up. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. That can certainly be added to our discussion. Again, it's under the direction of the "G" Division through their federal legislation laws that they have to follow in dealing with 16-year-old, 15-year-old or 14-year-old individuals that may be drinking with an open bottle. But I can seriously take those into consideration during our discussion with the chief superintendent of the RCMP "G" Division. Mahsi.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you. In that one instance it was public drinking, open liquor in public, and the same young woman has even admitted to stealing close to \$1,000 from family to the RCMP and no charges are laid.

Again, I want to ask the Minister if he can sit down, perhaps himself and his officials, that the Department of Justice can sit down with the RCMP and have a look at the entire picture and see where it is along the line that the RCMP can have a positive impact on trying to make sure that young people's lives don't continue to be put at risk. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. Part of our overall objectives and action plan is to deal with

preventative measures, not just our department, also GNWT wide, and the RCMP "G" Division as well. So those are issues we need to take at hand where a concern is being raised.

The individual may or may not be stealing money or materials and we need to prevent those things from happening, what can we do now to deal with those issues. I think formally we can deal with the top guy, the chief superintendent of the RCMP "G" Division and along with the Member and my Department of Justice to deal with this matter at hand and how we can find a solution. There's always a solution to existing challenges. So I'm willing to take that on with the chief superintendent.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's offer to talk to the superintendent of the RCMP "G" Division, but the Minister is the top guy in the Department of Justice and these issues are real issues that are facing young people around the territory. The reluctance to take action by the RCMP -- and that's why I'm speaking about it here again today -- to hopefully intervene in a young person's destructive behaviour has to be at the forefront.

You know, we can't afford to look the other way. Again, we need to ensure that we're sitting down with the RCMP and discussing these items. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could commit to doing this sooner rather than later, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. I agree that we are not looking away at that particular issue. Again, it's a preventive measurement that we need to deal with, myself as the Justice Minister along with the federal law that's before us. The RCMP "G" Division follows the federal law, as well. So we have to respect the Youth Criminal Justice Act as well that's before us. Yes, the sooner the better. If we can have a meeting, by all means, let's do that. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 85-16(6):  
DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS  
IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The population of the Sahtu is about 2,645. Of that population there's about 270 elders; 45 percent of our population is under the age of 24 years old. I wanted to ask the Premier, responsible for the Department of the Executive, if his department has ever done a study or analysis of what type of dollars would it mean for this government if you were to put in some of the essential, basic services in Colville, Good Hope, Deline, Tulita, in terms of bringing up some of the services that we have in

other communities that have government programs that people take for granted.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for the Executive, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work that we have done has been by line departments. For example, I know we've looked at the growing seniors population in our communities and the fact that we will need to address those through program reviews. When there are requests from Members of this House to look at extending our home care, for example, or our seniors facilities, as well as increasing our health services or expanding education programs. Each department then does a bit of work to look at what it would require to step up and make decisions on a yearly basis of what we could afford. We haven't done, through Executive, a study to look at overall impacts across the North. We do use, for example, our geographic tracking costs to look at the level of services we have and the cost of doing business in our communities.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** As the Department of Executive, when they're looking at taking care of the people in the Northwest Territories and the services in the smaller communities, I want to ask the Premier if it makes sense that this department take the initiative to look at this, or is he quite satisfied by having the departments go line by line to see if it makes sense and if we could actually afford a nurse in Colville Lake or have the RCMP present in Colville Lake.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** One of the things we've done in the life of this government is a Program Review Office that Executive is a part of. We look at how we are investing in our programs across the North and our communities to see if in fact we are delivering the level of service that is required, or how best to try to meet the demands that are being placed on us overall on program delivery in our communities. We have started that work. There is a fair bit of work that has been done that will help decision-makers coming up as to what areas we should invest in across the North.

I must say that as well as the Government of the Northwest Territories that started this Assembly, we went through an exercise of looking at a re-profile of some of our dollars. We weren't as successful at shrinking our budgets that would then allow us to reinvest in some of these critical areas. That decision will again remain open and the possibility for future governments to make some key decisions on.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I certainly look forward to some of those discussions also. I want to ask the Premier: wouldn't it make sense, I guess, coming back and having some of these analyses before we are done this Assembly, to look at does it make sense to put some of these key basic essential

services or programs in some of the communities that do not have them versus some of the ones that are already there?

I guess what I'm looking for is, it's been four years since I've been asking for an RCMP presence in Colville Lake. We're always being told we have to deal with the fiscal constraint. So I want to see how successful the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be in terms of putting an RCMP there.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** All governments that I've been a part of, I know the Member as well, Members of this Assembly, we are all going to be challenged in every business plan cycle we go through with the fiscal restraints that we are faced with. The decisions that need to be made on key priority areas, how do we achieve them are going to always be debates as we go forward.

I will say, though, as we look at some of those questions that were asked of us, the Program Review Office has been involved with issues like medical travel, pupil-teacher ratio, inclusive school funding, telecommunications, harvester support programs, and evaluation of travel administration for casual health care staff, this is also being conducted. As we get that information we'll be able to use that for decisions being made about where we put our key investments, what type of dollars will be required for additional investment, and where we would have to get those, as well. We will ongoing do that kind of work, and with the request being made here, we could put it to the refocusing government process to see if we will do additional work in this area.

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

#### QUESTION 86-16(6):

#### YELLOWKNIFE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Continuing along the same vein as my other colleagues with concerns of the cancellation of the Midwifery Program here in Yellowknife. My question to the Minister of Health and Social Services is built around the fact that why couldn't we continue the program and do the review and how much the review will cost and why didn't he talk to Members. To get it out right on the record: how much will this review actually cost to review the actual Midwifery Program that was being done here in Yellowknife?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We anticipate somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$100,000 range.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I want to thank the Minister for that particular answer, putting on record that it costs

about \$100,000. With this particular money potentially being spent -- because I assume it hasn't been spent yet -- who will be doing this review and when can we see a report done back into this House? Obviously, a report won't be tabled or presented to this particular House as it expires within a few months, but that said, when is there a true expectation of this report seeing the light of day and by whom?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** What is being aimed for is this will be ready for the incoming 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to consider, along with all the other work that will be laid out in the transition plan as they look at setting their priorities and doing their own business plans.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Who will be doing this particular work and initiative in order to review the program being offered in the midwifery services that were being run here in Yellowknife?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** This is a review of birthing services, midwifery services as it would pertain to a type of territorial system across the North. The RFP has yet to be concluded, as far as I'm aware, so there is no clear proponent that I can speak to or point to.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date it is my understanding that the Program Review Office does not charge back for full accounting of reviewing of programs. It would then stand to reason to me, and to other Members potentially, that the Program Review Office be tasked to do this review of the midwifery services.

As the Member has offered to this House the cost of \$100,000 that would go to an RFP, would it not make sense that we apply this \$100,000 for the review back to the person actually doing the services, or I should say who was doing the services for the record, and allow the Program Review Office to do the review at the same time? If there was not money available for that to provide service money to continue the Midwifery Program, then it seems odd that there's money to review it. We would have been able to save money on one hand and continue the service until we got a good quality program. With that type of comment, would the Minister be willing to reconsider this approach?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I don't think that would be an appropriate use of the skill set of the Program Review Office. This RFP is going to be asking for folks with a background that can also not only look at what's there but look across the North and be able to offer up some knowledgeable skill-based and experience-based suggestions and options of an expansion of services across the Northwest Territories. That is definitely not the role of the Program Review Office.

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

QUESTION 87-16(6):  
YELLOWKNIFE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are in follow-up to my Member's statement, also about midwifery services in the Northwest Territories. It's going to be slightly different. I'll try really hard not to ask the same questions. I'm wondering if the Minister could give me a quick, Coles Notes description of the intended purpose and scope of the review that will be done on the Midwifery Program in the Northwest Territories.

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a petition tabled in this House a number of months ago in a previous session. The Minister of Health and Social Services of the day indicated that there was a need to take a more comprehensive look on a territorial basis at midwifery services across the Northwest Territories, and should resources be available, what would be some of the options for rolling out any potential expansion of those services.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I'm glad the Minister said that. I think obviously the review should be focused on an implementation plan or a roll-out plan. I'm not at all interested in having another report done talking about the value of midwifery services in the Northwest Territories. We already know that. In fact, the Minister's department had a Midwifery Implementation Committee that was put in place in 2004-2005 which went through all the value of having midwifery services in the Northwest Territories. Quite frankly, we know the value. It's a matter of trying to get them into the communities or regional centres. In fact, back then they actually identified positions and money. There were two positions identified in Hay River for midwifery services. There were two positions identified in Inuvik for midwifery services. I believe there were also positions in Fort Smith and Yellowknife identified for midwifery services. The problem is that we never did it. What I need from the Minister is a commitment that this will be an implementation plan on how to roll out midwifery services in the Northwest Territories as opposed to just another report saying yes, these are valuable. We know that.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Member and I share something of a common history in this process. I was involved as well in the development of the legislation and the bringing forward of the resources and the plan to try to roll this out. The

key is going to be to see, given all the demographics, birthrates, and all the other technical things you have to look at in terms of services and where they should be located, and are they justifiable in terms of economics and the service levels, to see how we do that. Contingent upon, as I pointed out last week, the fiscal constraints that we are working under as a government.

The intent is to have a plan that is ready, that stands the test, that is clear, comprehensive, then as we plan for the day, as we've done in other program areas, when there's going to be some resources and that becomes a priority, then we'll be ready to see how we put funds to that.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I thank the Minister for that. I think it's important that its analysis is about implementation as opposed to whether the program has value. We already know that.

My question is still on this topic, and it's specific. We know that there's value in putting these positions in regional centres. We also know that there is significant fiscal restraint. This is something that the Minister has talked about over and over again. I'm not sure that I fully understand why, when we have competent professionals in our public service, people with lots of education and lots of skills, why we're going to go out and ask somebody to do an RFP on this as opposed to getting some of our internal staff who are more than qualified and already have experience through involvement on things like the old Midwifery Implementation Committee. Why are we once again going out and getting contractors to do something that our staff are competent, qualified, and probably interested in doing?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The assumption is that the staff that we do have, skilled as they are, are fully engaged in doing the work that's before them. This is going to be a very specific, time-sensitive, compressed process that we want to get ready for the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly. It's going to be difficult to take other key personnel away from the work that they're already doing. The resources have been found to bring in some folks to provide that skill set and get this thing done in a timely way.

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

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for that response once again, but I am still concerned, like the Minister has said over and over again, about our significant financial restraints and limitations. During one of the fiscal updates in this House, the Minister did indicate that we were going to try and restrain and control expenditures from within. Once again, this seems like we're going once again outside to have somebody else do a report for us when we have people to do it inside. I'm worried that this is going to end up being

another report on a shelf as opposed to an action plan. If we have our staff involved, and committed and working, and it's their plan, I see greater chances of success and rollout as opposed to having another contractor come in and go, you should do this, and it ends up on a shelf. To the Minister: can we have some guarantees that this is going to be a plan of action and how do we get our staff involved so that they're committed to the project, as well?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The staff will be involved. There will be a whole number of people and groups involved as we pull together the information. The task will be for ourselves as legislators, those that are going to be here in the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, to look at the work as they consider the business plan as a government, their first business plan to see where this ranks on the to-do list.

I would also suggest that as we look at the next contracts document at the end of this coming year, that I would think you'd see a diminishment of use of those services, just given some of the financial constraints and the concerns that have been raised in this House about the reliance on outside contractors. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 88-16(6):

NEED FOR A NEW SCHOOL IN TROUT LAKE

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the need for a new school over in Trout Lake. I know that the needs are mainly in our small and remote communities; however, we've been spending lots of our capital dollars over the last four years building super schools and super bridges, and I believe it should be time for the priority of this government to start concentrating on the schools in our small and remote communities.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Education -- he's heard the needs of Trout Lake, he's heard me raise it in the Assembly over the past years -- what steps has he taken lately to ensure that the needs of Trout Lake and planning for a new school will begin. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we've heard about this particular case in Trout Lake, the school, whether it be the capacity, the space itself. Due to that fact, we have identified funding to provide technical upgrades as identified in the VFA Canada reporting and program issues, in an attempt to provide better teaching space. Those are the areas that we are focusing on

right now, Mr. Speaker, and we are listening to the Member and also the community. We will be visiting the community in due time. Mahsi.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I think the Minister agrees with me that the best teaching space would be a new school. That's what the community wants; that's what I want. I've got support from the Members of the Assembly on this side of the House. I'd like to know what stage is his department looking at it in this business planning cycle of 2011 for 2012-2013. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, there are processes that we need to follow. As I stated, we have identified funds for technical upgrades and then having somebody, a consultant or departmental staff, going to the community to identify what's needed and what's the capacity. Right now, Mr. Speaker, the capacity is 48 percent utilized in the community. We have to look at that as well. Is it a space issue? Is it a building issue? The students, how many students are there? There are 16 students right now, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about those specific matters and we need to highlight and analyze all those key areas before we say, well, there's going to be a new school built next year. We need to find the funding, as well. The capital process will be in place and we will be discussing this particular subject along with others, as well.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I think that the priority of this government is that each community should have stand-alone schools, each community should have stand-alone recreation centres, and we should move towards, of course, nurses and policing. However, I'd like to know, is it the priority of the Department of Education to start looking at stand-alone schools in each of our small and remote communities? Mahsi cho.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, our priority is to deliver programs to each and every community to serve those students, to serve the community members. When we talk about infrastructure in communities, we have to work in partnership with the communities because there is limited access to infrastructure in the communities, as well. We have to work with those isolated communities, with what they have on hand and work with them. If there needs to be a new building that needs to come up, we need to work with the community government, the school boards and our department, the GNWT.

Mr. Speaker, it's not just one piece of infrastructure. We're talking about various infrastructure in the community that we need to work with. Mahsi.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to reiterate one more time that

Trout Lake does not have a stand-alone school. It had burned down many, many years ago. Our government is on the record as saying that it will be replaced. Right now it's being located in the community hall. That is just not acceptable. Each of our communities, our constituents, our people of the Nahendeh and the Northwest Territories deserve to have their own school. I'd like the Minister to start looking at that, start working towards that in the capital planning process this summer. I'd like to get a commitment of that nature. Mahsi cho.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I did commit to the Member that we will be going to the school. I believe we're working on a date with the Member to go into the community and also look at the particular school and the complex it is under. Working towards the next capital planning project, I will work with the Member and also the Members at large that this along with other projects, what are the priorities? What should come to us first? Those are the discussions that we need to have, as we do every year with the capital projects process. Mahsi.

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

#### QUESTION 89-16(6):

#### TEACHERS HOUSING IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I was speaking about the accommodations. Many communities have adequate accommodations. You know, in Tuktoyaktuk, our teachers housing, we're really fortunate enough to have a six-plex, but our government has pulled the funding back from the community.

Mr. Speaker, considering the housing issue is a number one problem in recruiting and retaining good staff in the communities, and considering that some communities are not waiting for the government to help develop housing strategies for their staff, will this government commit to seriously developing innovative and realistic assistance packages to these often cash-strapped small communities? Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to housing for staff, especially the teachers, we look after all the teachers as much as we can through the board operations. For the 2010-2011 school year, the teachers that were hired, there were no reports of positions going unfilled because of lack of suitable accommodations. As we all know, the northern living allowance, we take that into consideration as well, where each teacher, individual community



members do receive those allowances based on their posting. So if they're in an isolated community, they get a higher northern living allowance, as well. Those are benefits that our teachers can qualify for, as well. Mahsi.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Mr. Speaker, our government, with our nursing we provide them housing right in the health centres. Mr. Speaker, we need to help our teachers because they're the only ones that are going to help our students. Under the vision statement of this government, you know, it's strong, healthy, vibrant, independent people. Mr. Speaker, we need this funding reinstated back into the communities for the teachers. We have to support them, because they're the ones supporting our students.

Mr. Speaker, will the government commit to developing supporting our teachers housing subsidy program for all of the Nunakput communities and across the territory? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, what I can state in this House is that there are certain programs through the NWT Housing Corporation that each corporation can access. We've discussed this and it came from this Assembly, as well, that we need to deliver those subsidies to those corporations so they can build affordable housing. Yes, we support those teachers, very much so, and we know the students are successful because of those teachers. So we'll continue to work interdepartmental; ECE, Housing Corporation along with the board operations, as well. Mahsi.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Mr. Speaker, I had my EA at the Tuk Education Authority meeting. The cost of living in Tuk for rental housing is about \$1,800 a month. For a person to come and live in the community and teach our students, we need the support. You know, we're failing these teachers now.

Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the Minister to reconsider and reinstate the funding to give back to the community for our teacher housing program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. I did commit to working with the education school boards, the NWT Housing Corporation and ECE, my department, to work with the subsidies that we have in place, and also to deal with the northern living allowance that's before us. Maybe some teachers are not fully aware before they get into the communities that they do receive attractive benefits when they're in most isolated communities. So I did commit in this House that I will be working interdepartmentally and with other corporations as well. Mahsi.

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

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'd like to ask the Minister to reconsider reinstating

the funding back to the communities and back to the teachers for their housing, and if the Minister could commit to me today to come to meet with the Tuk District Education Authority before the end of the session. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. Those are the same questions that have been addressed. I will commit to the Member that I'll be working with the corporations, the Housing Corporation, also the Beaufort-Delta Department of Education as well, and Beaufort-Delta Board of Education. So we need to find solutions in these areas and support our teachers. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 90-16(6):  
FUNDING FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the new youth centre in Fort Resolution. I have questions for the Minister of MACA. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has seen four years of spending for youth, probably record spending for youth in this Assembly and also as a youth Minister. Does the Minister agree that strategic spending that supports youth today will reduce social problems in the future? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do agree with the Member's comment and I think this whole Assembly agrees with it. That's why this Assembly has determined that in the life of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly the amount of money that we've put into youth is unprecedented in any Assembly before us. I think that goes a long way in showing that we do recognize that investing in youth is a very good issue and it's something that we all support. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Does the Minister agree that an increase in spending in the area of youth will reduce the cost of health, housing, income support and education in the future? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. I do agree that a solid investment in the youth will alleviate a lot of the issues that the Member has raised. Again, I think I pointed out before, it's one of the reasons, as Members of this 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, we've determined that the youth are a very important investment, and I think we've proven that with the amount of money that we've put into youth in the last four years. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you. In Fort Resolution this government and municipal government has spent I think over \$1.5 million to build a youth centre. It would be important to maximize the future spending there, utilize that building. Does the Minister

support more funding going into a small community's committee to Sustainability on Rural and Remote Communities committee so that those communities can provide more support for our youth?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. The committee for Rural and Remote Communities was a very important committee that provided very important advice to the government in allocating funds, and I think through some of the work of the committee we've recognized on that committee, too, how important it is to invest in the youth.

The \$400,000 that we recommended going into the Regional Sports Program I think is an excellent example of the investment in youth. The Youth Centre Funding Initiative is another good example of that. We actually doubled it from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for the youth centres across the Northwest Territories and we've had, I think, almost every youth centre in the Northwest Territories has taken advantage of the program, and we look forward to seeing the new youth centre in Fort Resolution. I understand they've done some excellent work there. Again, it's a commitment by the community itself, because they took the initiative to invest in a youth centre, as we've seen across the Northwest Territories. I've been fortunate to have attended a few openings. Paulatuk has also decided that a youth centre was a priority in their community. So we're starting to see a lot of community-driven priorities and allocation of funds towards those priorities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Time for question period has expired. I'll allow the Member a final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. We all understand that it's very important to spend more money on the youth and that we provide supports for the future of the Territories. Will the Minister direct his staff to look at possible realignments in the funding to support the Hamlet of Fort Resolution to hire a qualified youth worker so that the infrastructure that we've built does not go to waste? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you. I think in the communities that have put up a youth centre like Fort Resolution, I don't think those infrastructure projects will go to waste. I think the communities themselves have the ability, through their O and M budgeting process, to allocate funds as they see fit, and most of the communities would have recreation workers.

As a department, as a government, we also provide \$825,000 to all the communities across the Northwest Territories for recreation purposes. That's on top of the O and M monies that we give the communities. So the community itself would have the ability to adjust their budgets so they could

take advantage of the new youth centre. I'm sure they have someone to work in the youth centre, but they do have the ability to adjust their budgets to hire people as they see fit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to the orders of the day, item 5.

---Unanimous consent granted

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

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honourable colleagues. I want to recognize an important G'asho Got'ine from Fort Good Hope to Yellowknife, Wilbert Cook Sr. Along with him is his girlfriend, Celine, and their baby, Tyrell. Also with Wilbert Cook is Wilbert Cook Jr. and his son Joey and his son's girlfriend, Donna. I'd like to welcome them to the gallery.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to recognize in the gallery former residents of Fort Simpson Mr. Will Cook Sr., current resident Ms. Celine Gargan, and new constituent baby Tyrell. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. I want to welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings.

Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

### Written Questions

#### WRITTEN QUESTION 7-16(6): TERRITORIAL PARKS AND TOURISM INITIATIVES

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

1. Please provide a list of all community parks and territorial parks located in the Sahtu region.
2. Please provide a breakdown of the budget for the expenditures that will be contributed to all aspects of parks and other tourism initiatives for 2011-12.
3. Please provide a strategy that outlines a plan to increase the presence of GNWT parks and other GNWT tourism initiatives in the Sahtu for 2011-12.

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

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 23-16(6):  
PART 1 – 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE,  
2010-2011

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Part 1 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report of the Victims Assistance Committee of the NWT, April 1, 2010, to March 31, 2011.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 24-16(6):  
TAKE A KID TRAPPING AND  
HARVESTING REPORT,  
2009-2010

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Take a Kid Trapping and Harvesting Report, 2009-2010.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 25-16(6):  
ABORIGINAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT –  
A STATUS REPORT,  
MAY 2011

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled, Aboriginal Student Achievement - A Status Report, May 2011.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 26-16(6):  
DVD: HAND TO TOE –  
AN EXPLORATION IN THE ART OF GIVING

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a video disk, Hand to Toe - An Exploration in the Art of Giving, the first Hot Docs to be produced by an NWT filmmaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 21:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, I'll move that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

### Motions

MOTION 5-16(6):  
ESTABLISHMENT OF MOBILE ALCOHOL  
AND DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM,  
CARRIED

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

WHEREAS alcohol abuse has taken a heavy toll in all Northwest Territories communities;

AND WHEREAS alcohol consumption and drug use has increased among young people;

AND WHEREAS NWT Liquor Commission net revenues will increase to \$24 million in fiscal year 2011-2012 from \$22 million in fiscal year 2008-2009;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories has only one alcohol and drug treatment centre;

AND WHEREAS there is no detoxification centre or relapse centre in the territory;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Health and Social Services strategic action plan, "A Foundation for Change," includes no strategic action to establish additional alcohol and drug treatment centres;

AND WHEREAS the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce has called for the establishment of an alcohol and drug treatment centre;

AND WHEREAS alcohol abuse is a contributing factor in the offences committed by a majority of inmates in Northwest Territories correctional facilities, and in a majority of family violence cases;

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 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly during the first six months of its term in office.

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

motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that when I visit my communities, and I also heard from many people in the North, they are saying that the alcohol abuse issue in all of our communities is getting worse, and the drug issue amongst our youth is getting worse. It's actually getting out of hand, as some of the people have said. It's no longer a Friday or Saturday event. It's a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday event. Now people are saying it's getting worse and out of hand because there are younger and younger people in our communities that are using.

Bootleggers are selling to the younger people, older people, and they see an opportunity. People are telling me, you guys are in government and you should do something with alcohol abuse.

There is a cloud of darkness coming in this great land we call the Northwest Territories, the land of resources and wealth, that we can no longer ignore. It's only going to get worse if we do not put a stop to it.

The younger population are our leaders. There are some good young leaders that will step forward and say enough is enough. If you look in our communities, if you look at the conditions of our communities, some of us spoke this afternoon about it, it doesn't look very good.

This motion is to support something for the young people and for our communities. It talks about an opportunity, about saving lives, about putting on our best, most sacred powerful place in the world, on our land. Taking them out there. It's about investing some dollars.

Now we are just about finished this Assembly. Given that we're going into a new Assembly and everything's going to be new in the 17<sup>th</sup>, we don't even know if they will take this discussion or whatever, if it will carry forward. Hopefully this government can give us a progress report on this motion, even though it's only a recommendation to government, that they can say yes, it makes sense to go on the land, to take families out on the land. Yellowknife, Inuvik, Tulita, Colville, Sachs, wherever. Say we believe in you. The families that hurt together are the families that have to heal together.

We do have the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre in Hay River. It's doing its work but we need to do something different to see the success of our people. Like I said, hopefully with this motion it will give some hope to the families.

We also heard it on CBC this morning. Here in Yellowknife people are drinking things that I thought were not possible. Unbelievable. Even in the city of Yellowknife people are using things that I just have

a hard time thinking about. I guess that's how powerful the addiction is. It's true when they say alcohol is one of the most cunning, baffling, and powerful.

There are a lot of people out there willing to help. They may not have the qualifications or criteria recognized by some of the western academic world, but they certainly have the qualifications in the Aboriginal world. I think we have to bring the two together to save us. We have to use both strengths to save a life. I think the best way is to put the people on the land.

Like I said, there is a dark cloud coming. If we don't do anything about it today, we have only ourselves to blame. We as a government need to be there for the people. We need to do something and look at some options to put people in our hands to say we're going to help you. We'll look at on-the-land treatment programs, a mobile one. I've seen it work. There are no guarantees that it will be all successful, but I think we have something there for them.

I want to thank the Member for Yellowknife Centre for seconding the motion. I thank my colleagues for allowing this motion to come this far to the House to speak on. I look forward to hearing some of the comments. I'll conclude later on.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the mover of the motion, Mr. Yakeleya, the Member for Sahtu, for a very good motion. The idea of a mobile alcohol and drug treatment initiative is certainly innovative, and I would say welcome, from my point of view.

I've been around here awhile, almost eight years in total, and this is one of the first interesting and, I would say, hopefully ground-breaking initiatives that could probably make a lot of sense when tackling the alcohol and drug treatment problem. I certainly say problem as in lack thereof.

We can talk about education all we want. I think that's a primary focus of the incoming crowd to the problem, and hopefully divert them so they never actually decide that this is a path that they wish to choose. We also cannot give up or forget about the people who are captured by these demons and held firmly in their grip. I think the solution provided by Member Yakeleya makes a lot of sense. That's certainly why I'm very grateful for him allowing me to be part of this initiative in the sense of the motion. It's very important that we find ways to help people who need help. This certainly makes a lot of sense.

As said by him, and I'll say it in my own way, he was right: youth are being increasingly challenged by this particular problem. As we have all heard or

know and pretend not to, or perhaps even put a blind eye to it, we know that the parties on the weekend are spilling over into the week and affecting people's lives. The fact is they're affecting school children every day of the week. Does that mean we need to develop programs in high schools or middle schools? I think that's a choice we have to start considering.

Alcohol treatment is important and, as highlighted already, we only have one treatment centre here in the Northwest Territories, which is Nats'ejee K'eh. I think they offer good programming for the kind of particular problems they tackle, but they are not a detoxification centre. That still is outstanding here in the Northwest Territories. We need that type of approach, that type of access for Northerners here to seek that type of treatment.

Our Foundation of Change does bring new, innovative ideas, but I would still say that when there's a particular issue like this lack of services here offered in the Northwest Territories, if you want a united voice, it didn't take long to start adding up the list, as I spoke last week to. Whether it's our coroner, or the Chamber of Commerce, or our very respected Judge Vertes all calling for this type of initiative here in the North, this motion is just one more voice adding to the cause. It often makes me worried about how many voices need to go silent before any action is taken to this. I'll tell you, voices are screaming and saying they want something done. What fears me is the day they stop screaming and saying they want this initiative to be addressed.

As I said last week, I had experienced a few years working at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, and I can tell you from personal experience, and although I don't have the stats for accurate context, but I can tell you easily 75 percent of the people incarcerated in that institution were there because of alcohol and drug problems. And I would suspect from what I saw there, that that was the lead-up into their experience of doing wrong and certainly what they suffered from and perhaps led them down the course of making some of their mistakes that they are punished for.

Mr. Speaker, you don't have to look far to find those types of experiences, but interestingly enough, as I said last week, when you're there getting to know people, you found that once they dried out or they cleaned up and they were starting to get involved with themselves in programming, they were taking a different outlook on life. All of a sudden their spirit rose once again and the trueness of hope and opportunity came forward in the sense of getting away from those demons, and that's an exciting thing to watch. The trueness of their heart and their spirit came out as they got away from these problems.

The example I provide to the House is quite a true example. You could ask any number of the corrections officers or any number of the addictions counsellors in Yellowknife, in the communities, whether it's Nats'ejee K'eh or wherever, the fact is they will all tell you somewhat of a similar story, that a lot of good people get caught up in these demons and we need options.

Mr. Speaker, the motion to establish a mobile drug treatment program is an initiative that is truly innovative, because we need ways to get out to the communities to ensure that they get the health resources and programming that they rightly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I'm definitely in favour of on-the-land programming, because I think every problem has a different type of solution. There is no one-size-fits-all. But the way it's prescribed now is if you have a particular crystal meth problem, you have to be sent to one of the local programs, whether it's in Hay River, or on the Hay River Reserve, sorry, or here in Yellowknife, and you have to fail in order to be further recommended to an Alberta detox centre. Mr. Speaker, I think that's significantly disappointing, because the families get caught up in this emotional struggle. It's very challenging to watch, whether it's their spouses or their children or even sometimes their parents get caught up in this world where they're like the living dead. They're rotting away in their bodies while these diseases are consuming them, and the only way to get treatment is to be sent south for these particular issues. Yet, there is no way to fast track this process, yet it's a matter of sending them somewhere to fail before we'll reconsider them again.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bit of a demeaning process that I can only imagine leads to further failure, and I've often thought that we could skip some of this process and if we could bring some type of detoxification services here in the North, you know, although as the Yellowknife MLA the first thing I think, of course, is we're a large community, we need these services here. You know, that's beyond any doubt. Should it be here? I mean, as the Yellowknife MLA, I always say that. Of course, let's look at that. But as a territorial MLA, it doesn't have to just be here.

My issue, number one, is how do we get the services in the North. I mean, to me where they end up is a small piece of the puzzle. I mean, you can put them in the Wells; you could put them in the Nunakput riding; you could put them in the community of Inuvik or Smith. It doesn't matter to me. The fact is the services are demanded and yet there's no response. Right now we're sending people to the hospital, or the people are committing themselves to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the hospital is no place to treat itself as a detoxification centre, and quite clearly it's not a detention centre either, and it can't be used for that. A hospital is not designed that way. Certainly this one isn't. Yet, it keeps pulling it back together that we need some type of solution, and perhaps the mobile alcohol and drug treatment program could be the way for this opportunity to be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, alcohol and drug abuse has had a profound impact in Yellowknife, in the communities, and to all northern families. I mean, we all know somebody who's been caught up in these types of problems and, generally, there is no happy ending to this particular case. It's a long time coming if there is particularly one.

Mr. Speaker, people are united in trying to find ways to support the program. I know the Minister always says we don't have the money, but, I mean, my goodness, there really are two or three priorities in the Northwest Territories that always rise above all others, and this certainly is one of them. I mean, people don't want to watch other folks go through this. I mean, the human cost of this particular problem is very consuming. It's like a train wreck. Their families get destroyed, they lose their jobs, their kids get neglected, the kids, you know, who knows what kind of trouble they get into. It's an open door for further opportunities to go downhill, Mr. Speaker. That's why it's so important that we establish some type of rehabilitation centre here that deals with the detoxification program created by the headaches of alcohol and drug use.

Mr. Speaker, I've said before and I truly mean it this time no less, that is that jails are not always the solution for people with these types of demons. I really believe that. As I said earlier, that when you minus the drug or the alcohol problem, quite often the trueness of how good some of these people really are starts to shine, and again, when they see hope, they see opportunity, and that really is what something like this could do.

Mr. Speaker, as said by my colleague Mr. Yakeleya, kids are getting involved younger and younger in this particular problem. We cannot rest on this particular issue, and the fact is just hoping that sitting around in a circle and talking about what to do and what not to do is... Probably we're long past that point, Mr. Speaker. I'm not saying that there isn't a role for that type of education or support group, but we need to now step up to the times that we're now sitting in, which is these very addictive, very destructive drugs and alcohol issues that are consuming people. Mr. Speaker, it makes good sense to be dealing with them.

Clearly, addiction has become a paramount problem here in the Northwest Territories. It will not get better until we treat it differently, because how we've been treating it to date is not getting us any further.

Mr. Speaker, I'll end with the fact that this is a very important issue in the riding of Yellowknife Centre. You don't have to go very far before you see somebody who has had a problem or who has a problem during the day. To characterize some of the strangeness or oddness of this is it was just this past Sunday, which would be yesterday, at 10 in the morning I'm doing yard work downtown and I hear a pack of people walking by in the alley. Everyone knows where I live, and I see people throwing beer cans over my fence. This is about 10 o'clock on a Sunday morning. I mean, people are drinking at that hour, and you can't tell me that that's not a particular issue. This is a little beyond recreation, Mr. Speaker. I think this is a question of has alcohol taken over their lives, and it's a shame. It's a shame. I mean, it's not a laughable problem that we should sit here and giggle and assume that it will go away, or to pull the wool over our eyes that nothing will happen until it starts to affect us. Well, I think it's gone way past that point.

Mr. Speaker, there will never be the ultimate answer, but in the same turn we have to keep this relentless spirit and pursuit of trying to get a solution, and the solution may just be the one in front of us. It's that type of innovation I give credit to my colleague for trying to bring to the table, because you'll never get anything different if you keep trying to do things the same way. This is certainly an option that stands out clearly to me as an option that says let's give people hope back, let's get them into the programming that they need, and I believe very strongly in this type of initiative.

To that, Mr. Speaker, I thank the House for listening and I also thank my colleague Mr. Yakeleya for being involved in this motion, because it is a very important issue for me, and as I know you will hear later today, it is an important issue to many other colleagues in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will rise and support this motion today. In our communities I have asked many times to increase the mental health and healing programming dollars available to the communities, and always we're limited by the health board budgets. I think it was about \$5,000 per community. But this motion by the Member for Sahtu is a good solution to increase and diversify options and programs to our community. So I will be supporting this motion, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be supporting the motion. I'd like to thank the Member for the Sahtu for bringing this forward.

Mr. Speaker, it is a well-known fact we have a huge problem with alcohol abuse in the Northwest Territories. Anything we can do to prevent that, to treat that, is something that I will support.

To the clause in the motion that speaks of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce and to the beer cans over Mr. Hawkins' fence, I can't really exactly understand how that correlates to an on-the-land drug and alcohol abuse program, but that's okay. I'm going to try and speak to the motion and not stand up here and respond to what Mr. Hawkins said.

Mr. Speaker, an on-the-land program is beneficial because it's something that people of the North, a lot of them can relate to. I'm not a person who's spent a lot of time on the land, but a lot of people in the North can relate to that serenity, to that quietness, to that ability to reflect on their life and the choices that they are making and what they need to make. So I think it is a great idea. A mobile treatment facility to treat people on the land is something succinctly that I think this government should spend money on, and I think that we have few larger challenges ahead of us than ensuring that facilities are in place to treat people in the Northwest Territories who have substance abuse problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Possibly the largest source of pain, sorrow, and escalating associated social ills in the NWT is due to our substance abuse, and particularly with alcohol in the Northwest Territories. Wherever we travel and consult, especially in the Child and Family Services Act review, for example, we hear about these sorts of problems and the need for new and improved programs on alcohol abuse.

Justice Vertes I believe recently commented on this and the need to address this and what it's costing our people and our systems. I do have a real focus on prevention, and that's still my main focus, but in this particular case this is such a priority item in all aspects that we need to address this every which way we can.

In the larger regional centres, and certainly in Yellowknife, we see people accumulating here, gathering and becoming street people, becoming homeless, and victims and perpetrators of violence and so on. We're a civilized society. We must be able to address this better than we are, certainly much better than we are right now. So we really need some progress there.

Many of my colleagues have pointed out the healing power of the land and the opportunity to tap into this. I personally agree with that observation. I think this is a real opportunity. I don't know how

much has been tried in the past, but we need to give that a really good shot, and I think there is some new thinking on substance abuse treatment that can mesh very nicely with that approach, and I appreciate my colleagues bringing this motion forward.

We can't, of course, forget the need for follow-up and community and family support to realize the success an on-the-land treatment program can enable, and I'll count on the department and my colleagues to make sure that that happens, but for now I'm stating my clear support for this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will support the motion. I think it's something that would be a good solution to this government in many areas.

I know that in the communities of Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e if you ask the health professionals, local health care nurses what they think are the number one health issues, they say alcoholism. Alcohol is the number one cause of health issues in the small communities, and we know from sitting here and we know from being Northerners that it's also the number one cause for corrections, justice: alcohol. It's the number one cost for even youth, people being in the corrections and so on. It's the number one cost of education. The lack of support that's provided to the kids that are going to school when you have parents that are using alcohol. It's the number one cost in child and family services because of foster kids, and that's what happens if their parents are not able to provide for their own kids, the children that they have themselves, and they go into a system where there's high costs. The cost of foster care is very high. If there is no alcohol, then the foster care would come way down.

So the way in which we attempt to treat people at this time, there are treatment centres where individuals travel from small communities to a treatment centre. Sometimes it's accessible, but many times it's not. So this is a good alternative, the best alternative, because if you go around, I know that all of the ridings, if you go around Yellowknife, if you go around in the Sahtu, around Tu Nedhe, you see how beautiful the land is and the areas where these guys set up these little cultural camps that are designed so that these guys can come from other communities, or from within the community there's people that are used to working with people that are struggling with alcohol and so on, and then there's some sort of mobile cultural type healing on the land.

I think this is a very good initiative. I think that this motion obviously will receive support, but I think all of us here as government especially should take a

look at, really, the cost implications of this. If we're able to heal people from alcoholism, there's going to be a different perspective in here. I mean, the social costs of this whole government will go down sharply; there's no question about it. If we look at that and we get serious about it, we put money into this, we will see a big change in the Northwest Territories, a big, big change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in support of this motion. As the first whereas indicates, alcohol abuse, and I believe drug abuse as well, place a really heavy toll on our communities and on our people. I think that we don't have enough infrastructures at this point to help our people deal with that problem.

We do have one treatment centre in Hay River and we've heard very often from Ministers of Health and Social Services that we have a treatment centre that people should be able to just go there and get the treatment that they need. That requires them to go out away from their community and away from their families.

This is a novel and unique approach to a treatment centre which goes to the people who need the treatment. They can stay basically within their community and they also will be able to be on the land. We've heard very often from many people and from many different perspectives the value that being treated and being out on the land has, and how beneficial it is to us as individuals and to our peace and our well-being.

I feel really importantly that not only do we need another treatment centre, whether it be mobile or not, but we also have to ensure that any treatment option that we put into place allows for after-care. I think it's one aspect of our treatment for drugs and alcohol which is not given enough weight. I think it's something that we gloss over and we treat people, and then put them back into their community without any supports.

As mentioned by Mr. Bromley, one of the biggest things we heard when we were travelling for the Child and Family Services Act review was the need to provide supports in the communities for those people who are dealing with alcohol abuse, drug abuse, any number of abuses. We have way too many of them.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say that I feel that it's really important that this particular option, and the possibility of this option, be considered within the parameters of the mental health review, which is apparently ongoing at this time and we should see some sort of results from that review within the next few months. This is something which needs to be

considered in light of a review of any of the mental health services that we provide as a government. It's an option which can provide success for our people and I hope that the government does not dismiss it out of hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Yakeleya for bringing this motion forward.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is real and this motion offers a reasonable and unique alternative which could be highly successful, and I support this motion. I hope that it's given fair and reasonable consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Member Yakeleya for bringing this forward. I will be supporting this motion and I look forward to everybody supporting it, as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. To the motion. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Members for bringing forward this motion about a very difficult subject, about a substance, alcohol, that is the bane of northern existence when you look at the social problems that it causes.

There is, and has been over the last 10 years, a significant amount of work done in terms of trying to modernize and update and make our mental health and addictions services more efficient and effective. As the Member for Frame Lake pointed out, there is a review that is underway on mental health and addictions. That review will be coming forward and will, along with many other things, be on the list of the incoming 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to look at. As we do business plans for all those MLAs that will be back, and as business plans are done and money is looked at and the hugely long list of competing priorities are considered, it will be there for consideration by all Members of the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. I'll allow the mover of the motion closing remarks. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Members for all speaking up and saying what you have to say; and also for the Minister's consideration to the new Assembly once we get there.

I want to say that this motion came from a time when my family was out at Old Fort Point in the bush. When I came back to Tulita, the first person that came to me said to me that we have to do



something with the young kids and their drinking. It's getting scary and out of hand.

I know, as Mrs. Groenewegen has stated, that not all people have lived or grown up on the land and sometimes it's very difficult, so I do appreciate her bringing her concerns. I thank her for opening my eyes also, that when we look at something, that's the best solution for the people.

Also, one thing I do know is that alcohol has no discrimination in race, barrier, colour, man, or woman. That's the one unity, commonality, that we can have. It doesn't matter who you are, rich or poor, educated or uneducated, it affects us all.

What I do know is that if you come down to a personal level, to me, my step-father died because of it. That is so painful, especially when times at spring hunt, Christmas, fall hunt, birthdays. That's painful and shameful and it hurts. Us human beings have such good coping mechanisms, we deal with it in our own way. Through people like you've heard in the communities, and workers, there is hope. It's a struggle. As my colleague said, there's after-care that we really need to look at. Some things that we are discovering. Why don't you put it away?

The other fact is that I know about this: some people can use it and are pretty okay with it. That's okay. I talk about this being on the land for people who abuse it; people who need some kind of other support than doing nothing.

For us to survive as a culture, as a nation, we have to do the most outrageous, radical thing, is put these programs on the land through a mobile unit and have it looked at again. That's why I like this motion, and I thank the Members for supporting me on this. I know there's hope because I'm standing here today sober for the last 24 years. I know there's hope. I know it can be done.

I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, if we could have a recorded vote once this motion is on the table to vote.

#### RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member is seeking a recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Ms. Bisaro.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed to the motion, please stand. All those abstaining from the motion, please stand.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Lafferty; Mr. Miltenberger; Mr. Roland; Mr. McLeod, Deh Cho; Mr. McLeod, Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mr. McLeod, Yellowknife South.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The results of the recorded vote: for, 10; opposed, zero; abstaining, six. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

#### First Reading of Bills

##### BILL 12: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 6, 2010-2011

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 6, 2010-2011, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 12 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

##### BILL 13: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2011-2012

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 13 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

##### BILL 14: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2011-2012

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 14 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

BILL 15:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
DEH CHO BRIDGE ACT

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Deh Cho Bridge Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Bill 15 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

BILL 16:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Bill 16 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for 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 move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Bill 17 has had first reading.

---Carried

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:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Bill 18 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

BILL 19:  
COST OF CREDIT DISCLOSURE ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 19, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Bill 19 has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 11:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

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

This bill amends the Public Service Act to remove the restriction that prevents the appointment of more than three staffing review officers.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Bill 11 has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) to have Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, moved into Committee of the Whole today.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 12:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 6, 2010-2011

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 6, 2010-2011, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 12 has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 13:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 1, 2011-2012

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 13 has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 14:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 1, 2011-2012

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 14 has had second reading.

---Carried

Item 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; Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act; Committee Report 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; Committee Report 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; Committee Report 3-16(6), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2009-2010 Human Rights Commission Annual Report; Committee Report 4-16(6), Standing Committee on

Government Operations Report on the Review of the NWT Languages Commissioner Annual Report 2009-2010, with Mr. Bromley in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Committee, we have before us consideration of Bills 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11, and Committee Reports 1-16, 2-16, 3-16, and 4-16. What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So far we have approval from committee to deal with Bills 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11; okay, 11 as well. I'm getting the verbal here from... No? Okay, Mr. Schauerte is saying no to 11.

---Laughter

Okay, let's just go back to 3, 4, 5, 6. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. So we'll consider Bills 3 through 6. Committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order and we have before us Bills 3 through 6 and we'll start with Bill 3, Electronic Transactions Act, as agreed, and I'd like to call on Minister Lafferty. Would you like to introduce the bill, Minister Lafferty?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to be here today to speak to Bill 3, Electronic Transactions Act. I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review of this bill.

Legal relationships have long been based on paper documentation, and most laws use language that refers to paper documents. Over the past generation, however, more and more people have begun communicating through the Internet and by e-mail. The result is that documents and information are now routinely shared electronically.

Mr. Chair, to some extent, courts have come to terms with technology: people have drafted contracts to provide standards for computer communications between them, and legislation has been created to provide for the use of electronic documents in specific areas. However, the benefits

of electronic communications are not fully realized by the legal uncertainty that still exists, due to the absence of legislation that deals with issues raised by electronic commerce.

This proposed new legislation would make it clear that electronic communications and documents are recognized under NWT law. It provides for minimum standards that must be met where electronic documents and information are used. At the same time, it is important to note that the proposed legislation does not require people to use electronic communications against their will. The bill also allows public bodies to set their own standards for incoming electronic documents.

The proposed legislation sets out basic rules for electronic transactions, including:

- the formation and operation of contracts;
- the effect of using automated transactions;
- the correction of errors when dealing with another party's automated computer application, and
- the specific details relating to both time and place where computer communications are considered to be sent and received.

The bill also contains provisions that deal specifically with the shipping of goods.

The bill is based on a model law that all other Canadian provinces and territories have used to develop their own laws addressing issues associated with electronic commerce. A draft bill was developed by Justice staff and made available for public comment. The bill in its current form was completed after consultation with those who provided specific feedback.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that committee members may have regarding Bill 3. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. I'd like to just interrupt proceedings for one minute to offer an enthusiastic welcome to our Deputy Law Clerk, Malinda Kellett. Welcome, Malinda.

---Applause

Malinda is participating in the House at the table for the first time today. Good to see her here. Once again, thanks for those comments, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Beaulieu, as the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, do you have comments?

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 3, Electronic Transactions Act, on May 12, 2011. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. The bill provides for a legal recognition of electronic documents and communications in the Northwest Territories. It sets minimum standards for

the use of electronic documents and information in commerce and with public bodies.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 3, Electronic Transactions Act, to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes committee's opening comments on Bill 3. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

And if I could ask Minister Lafferty to please introduce your witnesses.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I have with me to my left, Mark Aitken, director of legislative division; and Gary McDougall, director of legal registries. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. We are now open for general comments on Bill 3, Electronic Transactions Act. General comments.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** I'm hearing a call for detail, clause by clause. Does committee agree? Excuse me, I missed Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a couple of comments here that I would like to make. In discussion at committee in consideration of this bill, I know one of the things that was a concern for me, and I think for a couple of other committee members, was that although this act is dealing with protections for electronic transactions and so on, it leaves a hole in terms of protection for our residents in terms of consumer protection. It's something which I think other jurisdictions have dealt with through amendments to their consumer protection legislation, their consumer protection acts. One province, Manitoba, dealt with the Election Transactions Act and their consumer protection legislation at the same time and we've chosen not to do that. But I do feel that the issue needs to be raised that there is a bit of a hole in terms of consumer protection at this point, and I would encourage, as I did at committee, that consumer protection legislation needs to be amended and upgraded sooner rather than later for us. It's obviously not going to happen now before the dissolution of this Assembly, but I would hope that Justice is going to consider it... Actually, it's not Justice, but that Justice will encourage MACA, and MACA will consider it at the earliest opportunity at

the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, because it does leave a bit of a hole here in protection for our residents relative to goods that they buy and so on. That's all I have. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you for that comment, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Lafferty, would you care to respond?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Yes, I did commit to the standing committee that I will be working with Mr. McLeod, Municipal and Community Affairs Minister, on this consumer protection, whether it be updates or upgrades to the specific policy. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Committee, further comments, general comments?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Hearing none, does committee agree we go into detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. We'll go to page 4 and we'll go clause by clause. Do you agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 22 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Committee, going back to the bill as a whole, the Electronic Transactions Act. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Does committee agree that Bill 3, Electronic Transactions Act, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 3 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank the witnesses and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort them from the Chamber.

Next on our list here, committee, is Bill 4, the Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011. I'd like to call on Minister Lafferty. Would you have opening comments?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Please go ahead.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, the purpose of Bill 4, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011, is to amend various statutes of the Northwest Territories for which minor changes are proposed or errors or inconsistencies have been identified.

Each amendment included in the bill had to meet the following criteria:

a) it must not be controversial;

b) it must not involve the spending of public funds;

c) it must not prejudicially affect rights; and

d) it must not create a new offence or subject a new class of persons to an existing offence.

The departments responsible for the various statutes being amended have reviewed and approved the changes.

Most amendments proposed in Bill 4 are minor in nature and may consist of technical corrections to a statute. Other changes have the effect of repealing certain enactments or statutory provisions that have expired or have otherwise ceased to have effect. The amendments are of such a nature that the preparation and legislative consideration of individual bills to correct each statute would be time consuming for the government and the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chair, I will be pleased to answer the committee's questions on Bill 4.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. I'd like to give the chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs the opportunity to also give comments on the bill. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 4, the Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011, on May 12, 2011. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The bill corrects small inconsistencies and errors in various laws in the Northwest Territories. All of the changes proposed are minor in nature and non-controversial.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 4, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011, to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes committee's opening comments on Bill 4. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I'd like to ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in witnesses. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.

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

If I could ask Minister Lafferty to please introduce your witness.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I have Mark Aitken with me, the director of the legislation division within Justice.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Committee, we're open for general comments on Bill 4, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011. General comments? Hearing none, does committee agree we go to clause-by-clause? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. We'll begin on page 1 of the bill with clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 27 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this completes Bill 4, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011? Bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Does the committee agree that Bill 4, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 4 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Bill 4, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011, is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank the witness and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witness from the Chamber.

Moving on, committee, next on the agenda is Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-2011. I'd like to ask the Minister if he has opening remarks. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I am here to present Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-2011.

Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-2011, authorizes the write-off of the debts listed in the schedule to the act.

Pursuant to Section 24(3) of the Financial Administration Act, Legislative Assembly approval is required for the write-off of government assets or debts exceeding \$20,000.

Pursuant to Section 82(2) of the Financial Administration Act, Legislative Assembly approval is required for the write-off of debts owed to a public agency exceeding \$20,000.

I wish to emphasize that the write-off of a debt does not relieve a debtor of the liability for repayment. The government will continue to attempt to collect the outstanding amount.

Through continued reviews by staff, future recovery of the debt may still be achieved. In addition, in the case of debts owed by companies, staff will track the principals of each firm for future credit reference.

That concludes my opening remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. I'd like to call now on the chair of the standing committee, if he has comments. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Government Operations met on May 9, 2011, to review Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-2011.

Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 5 to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 5. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. I'd like to ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in witnesses.

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

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

Minister Miltenberger, if you could please introduce your witness.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Warren St. Germaine, the comptroller general for the Department of Finance. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Committee, we have before us Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-11. Comments, general comments. I'm hearing none. Does committee agree we go to detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee, and before we go to the detail, clause by clause, I'd like to first consider the schedule to the bill. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Schedule, debts written off, total, \$771,983.85 on page 3. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Returning to page 1, on clause by clause, clause 1, clause 2.

---Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. The bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Does committee agree that Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-11, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 5 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-2011 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Minister and your witness, and I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort your witness from the Chamber, or did you wish to have him stay for the next bill? In which case, I will call on the Minister to introduce Bill 6, the Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010-2011.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, I am here to present Bill 6, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010-2011.

Bill 6, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010-2011, authorizes the forgiveness of certain debts listed in the schedule of the act.

Pursuant to Section 25 of the Financial Administration Act, the forgiveness of a debt or obligation to the government exceeding \$1,000 must receive Legislative Assembly approval.

When a debt is forgiven, no further collection action shall be pursued.

The forgiveness of certain debts being proposed in this act will not require a new appropriation. Allowances for doubtful accounts were charged to an appropriation at the time it was determined that collection of the debts was considered unlikely.

The accounts being recommended for forgiveness are the result of bankruptcy, compromise settlements, or are in the public interest. In cases where a compromise settlement is reached, the following factors have been considered:

- the possibility of future recoveries;
- the cost to continue legal action; and
- the value of security associated with the debt.

That concludes my opening remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. I'd like to call next on the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, Mr. Hawkins, for comments based on the bill. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your hardworking Standing Committee on Government Operations met on May 9, 2011, to review Bill 6, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010-2011. Following a clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 6 to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 6. Individual Members may have additional

questions or comments as proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. We will now go to the bill itself. General comments. Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand the reason for this bill and for the most part I reluctantly agree with forgiving some of these dollars.

There's one area that I have a big problem with and that is there's three debts in here that arose out of fraudulent activities against the GNWT. Specifically, people stole from the GNWT and they were given an order by the courts to pay back the GNWT a certain amount of money. Now, for some reason, we have failed to collect that money and the time is such that now they're statute barred, which means it's kind of impossible to collect the money. As a result we're out about \$50,000 that we could have collected from people who stole from us and it kind of rots my socks that we're going to forgive these dollars.

Unfortunately, they are statute barred, which means we can't do anything. But I think it's important that we learn from this particular case. People do, from time to time, steal from the Government of the Northwest Territories and when they do steal from the Government of the Northwest Territories, there's no reason that we should ever, especially when an order from the court has been given, ever let them get away with not paying back what they owe. If we don't have policies and procedures to track these individuals so that we make sure that we're on top of them from the minute an order is given until all the monies are collected, we should put those in place to make sure that when people do steal from us and are ordered to pay us back, that we're on top of it and we collect the money.

So to the Minister today, I would like to seek some commitment from the Minister that some protocols or rules will be put in place to ensure that we never see a situation where we're writing off debt or forgiving debt for individuals who have stolen from us. So to the Minister, will the Minister commit to putting in some policies, procedures to make sure that we track the dollars from individuals who have stolen from us? In this case, three people are getting away with over \$50,000 in what they owe us and, quite frankly, it's unacceptable. We need to make sure it never happens again. Will the Minister commit to that?

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to offer up the specific commitment, proceeded by just a couple of points.

Court orders for restitution become statute barred in the Limitations of Action Act after 10 years, not six

years, as with other debts. The courts will not impose additional conditions on the debtors, such as keeping the GNWT informed of their employment status, whereabouts or marital status. It is the responsibility of the party whom the judgment is in favour of to be diligent in their collection efforts, because the courts will not take further action.

Additional action can be taken at the time of an application for judgment that would require the debtor to disclose, under oath, assets and particulars of employment. If the GNWT feels there are assets available to satisfy a debt, this information could then be used for additional collection action, such as writs against property or garnishees against wages.

It is possible to apply to the courts to renew an order prior to reaching the 10-year limitation. After reviewing these facts, the office of the comptroller general will implement processes pertaining to debts that arise from fraudulent activities to ensure departments that have secured judgments for restitution renew them with the courts if the judgment has not been satisfied within 10 years.

Procedures will also be established to ensure more aggressive action is taken at the outset of the application of a restitution order to take all possible steps to secure all possible assets of the debtor to settle the amounts outstanding.

Finally, I would just make the observation that as was pointed out by Ms. Lavoie, the assistant comptroller general, in her 10 or 12 years in her position she had never seen this type of restitution write-off before. So it's brought to light a gap and we believe that this commitment will help close that gap and I thank the committee for raising the issue with us. Thank you.

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

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to thank the Minister and the comptroller's office for making that commitment to making sure that people who steal from us don't get to keep the money they stole. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Minister.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. Committee, general comments? Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a similar issue I had as well in the committee, and it's really about involvement from the Department of Finance side in the courts, whether it's using our Justice people in particular to make a position known to the courts to ensure that the GNWT's interest is exercised and acknowledged before the 10 years lapse through statute barred.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister of Finance, obviously through the comptroller general

for providing us this briefing note on debts that arise as a result of court ordered restitution. In short, the Minister read his briefing note that explained the process that they'll start, and this was truly identified by committee at large to try to figure out ways to ensure that people who commit fraud aren't, for the lack of a better term, rewarded by that process.

I want to acknowledge the work provided by the comptroller general who has found a way to help address this particular problem. As I explained to committee, my particular position is if we can articulate our voice early, if the person does fail to comply within a reasonable amount of time, hopefully the Department of Justice can make application to the court to either, as stated by the Minister, continue another order going forward or, of course, then proceed for failure of following through on a court order and then let the courts decide what's appropriate at that time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. General comments. Hearing no more general comments, we'll go to clause by clause. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Before we start that, we'll defer that until we have looked at the schedule to the bill. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Going to pages 3 through 5, schedule of debts forgiven, total \$1,375,491.32.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Returning to clause by clause, page 1 of Bill 6, clause 1.

---Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive approved

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Bill 6 as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Does committee agree that Bill 6, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010-2011, is now ready for third reading?

---Bill 6 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** I'd ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witness from the Chamber. Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** 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 from the Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 3, 4, 5 and 6, and would like to report progress. Bills 3, 4, 5 and 6 are 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 Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

---Carried

Before we go onto the next item on the Order Paper, colleagues, earlier today in the House the Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley, tabled a DVD video disk entitled Hand to Toe – And Explanation of the Art of Giving. Article 43 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly permit a Member to table any document which is required to be tabled in the House by any act or order of the Assembly or which may be in the public interest. Upon initial review of the item tabled earlier today, I am not satisfied that Mr. Bromley's item meets the test laid out in Article 43 of the Rules as it is clearly not a document.

As well, the Chair has some concerns about the reproduction of this item in the absence of the expressed written consent of the DVD's producer.

As a result of these concerns, I am ruling Tabled Document 26-16(6) out of order. Thank you, colleagues.

Item 22, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

### Third Reading of Bills

BILL 8:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 8 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance.

BILL 12:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 6, 2010-2011

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for

Monfwi, that Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 6, 2010-2011, be read for the third time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 12 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance.

BILL 13:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 1, 2011-2012

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012, be read for the third time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 13 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance.

BILL 14:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 1, 2011-2012

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2011-2012, be read for the third time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 14 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 20, Vital Statistics Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
  - 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
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act
  - 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 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

23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:29 p.m.