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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, May 17, 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 1:33 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Welcome to all our guests in the Chamber today in the gallery.

Colleagues, on behalf of Members, I would like to congratulate Wendy Bisaro on being named the 2011 winner of the Ann MacLean Award for Outstanding Service by Women in Municipal Politics.

---Applause

The NWT Association for Communities nominated Wendy for this prestigious award. We are very pleased to see our friend and colleague honoured for her nearly two decades of outstanding service to her community. And, of course, she continues to serve Yellowknifers at the territorial level.

The Ann MacLean Award is presented annually by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to recognize women municipal politicians who have shown exemplary service to their community and constituents and to mentoring women who want to run in elected municipal office.

The Ann MacLean Award for Outstanding Service by Women in Municipal Politics was created in April of 2009 and is named in honour of former CFM President Ann MacLean and retired long-time mayor of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

Ms. Bisaro was first selected to the board of trustees for Yellowknife Education District No. 1 in 1988. She was re-elected three times and served as a board member for 12 years and also as a board chairperson.

Ms. Bisaro moved to municipal politics in 2000 and was elected to Yellowknife City Council for two consecutive three-year terms. She was chosen to serve as deputy mayor by her fellow council members during her second term.

Ms. Bisaro was elected to the 16th Legislative Assembly on October 1, 2007, as the Member for Frame Lake in Yellowknife. Congratulations, Ms. Bisaro.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 19-16(6):
EDUCATION HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to advise this House that a ceremony was held today to celebrate the tremendous contributions that people across this territory have made to education.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment launched the Education Hall of Fame in 2010. We recognize that we all play an important role in supporting the education of our children and the Education Hall of Fame reflects the valuable contributions that people make as educators, volunteers, board members, administrators, and other community members.

In February 2011 we distributed advertisements requesting nominations be put forward for those Northerners who made lasting and selfless contributions to education. Nominations poured in from every region and seven people were chosen from across the territory. The 2011 inductees embody the commitment, diligence, creativity, and passion that we want education to inspire in us all.

Ms. Joanne Tetlich from Fort McPherson is a custodian of 18 years at Chief Julius School and a coach. She takes great pride in her work and greets the students every morning, and opens her home to anyone in need of a safe place.

Mrs. Dorothy Beaulieu of Fort Resolution began her teaching career as a part-time classroom assistant in 1974, and over her 30 years as an educator she taught many subjects to all grades. After teaching Chipewyan for 22 years, Mrs. Beaulieu earned an Aboriginal Language Certificate and continued teaching Chipewyan until she retired.

Mrs. Ethel Blondin-Andrew of Tulita taught for 10 years across the Northwest Territories before moving to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment as a language specialist fluent in North Slavey. Ethel was involved in policy

development for the preservation of Aboriginal languages and culture. In 1988 she became the first Aboriginal woman to be elected to the Parliament of Canada and appointed to the Privy Council and Cabinet. During her tenure as a Member of Parliament, she served as Secretary of State and then Minister of State for Children and Youth. Ethel now sits on the Aurora College Board of Governors and remains a tireless advocate for children in the North.

Mr. Ed Jeske began teaching at Sir John Franklin High School in 1958 and devoted his time and energy to his students both in the classroom, the heavy duty mechanics shop, and on the hockey ice. Even after retiring in 1989, he continued mentoring hundreds of youth on the ice as a hockey coach.

Ms. Lucy Lafferty spent her nearly 30 years in education as an educational assistant, teacher, principal, and director of education in the Tlicho region. She was instrumental in the implementation of many language and culture programs, including Community Teacher Education Program and Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor Program. Ms. Lafferty continues supporting education today as the culture coordinator for the Tlicho Community Services Agency.

Ms. Margaret Field passionately provided students in Fort Providence with an education balanced with both academic and cultural knowledge for 41 years. With positions such as supervisor at LaPointe Hall, classroom assistant, teacher, and later as community adult educator, almost every child in the community learned her lessons in academics, culture and Slavey, and some returned as adults to continue their education with her.

Mr. Garth Brasseur came to Yellowknife in 1989 to teach at St. Patrick's High School and has since taken on roles of teacher, friend, confidant, advocate, taskmaster, coach, counsellor, tutor, drug and alcohol counsellor, taxi driver, lawyer and parent. His unconventional methods forged trust with even the most at-risk students, relating to them at their level as he works to affect change and see them through to graduation.

Of these distinguished people, some are with us today in the gallery, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, today we stand on the shoulders of giants. Without the dedication and hard work of these people and people like them, education in the North would not be where it is today. Just as they built upon the foundation laid by the many people who came before them, we must continue to build upon their efforts for strong minds and a strong North.

Mr. Speaker, this is our second group of inductees into the Education Hall of Fame. They are truly impressive people who inspire thousands of us to do more, be better and believe in ourselves.

Healthy, educated people is one of the goals of this Assembly, and I hope all Members of this Assembly will join me in honouring the inductees in the Education Hall of Fame and thank them for dedicating their life's work to the students of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi cho.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 20-16(6):
NWT WATER STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan. The action plan outlines how the Water Stewardship Strategy will be implemented and reflects the needs and interests of NWT residents. Implementing the plan will address this Assembly's priority to ensure an environment that sustains present and future generations and protects our water supply and quality.

The action plan builds upon the multi-year, multi-million dollar Water Stewardship Strategy, and is the result of multiple water partner meetings, public input and multi-agency workshops. It represents the interests of the GNWT, Aboriginal governments, environmental non-government organizations, regulatory bodies, industry, federal government departments, NWT residents and interested parties across the North.

The action plan was developed by the GNWT, the Government of Canada and the Aboriginal Steering Committee, with active input from NWT residents. Water partners worked with Aboriginal governments to ensure Aboriginal and treaty rights as well as spiritual and cultural values are well respected. Both scientific and traditional knowledge continue to play a crucial role in informing decision-making and water stewardship by all users and regulators of water in the Northwest Territories.

The action plan identifies the key components central to the successful implementation of the strategy such as transboundary water agreement negotiations, community-based monitoring and a collaborative partnership approach to all implementation.

Mr. Speaker, the successful implementation is contingent on water partners working together. Many of the strategy's actions address the means to routinely share information and work together with multiple agencies to plan priority actions and establish partnerships. Our partnerships with Aboriginal governments and the Government of Canada will ensure ongoing dialogue, and interagency collaboration continues to benefit all water partners.

Protecting our territorial waters remains a strong priority for this government. The action plan outlines the actions we will take to maintain and sustain our watersheds for the benefit of current and future generations. Development activities have the potential to alter the equality, the quantity and the timing of water flow. These changes can affect aquatic ecosystem health and, as a consequence, affect how we can rely on these water sources.

With increased pressure on our water resources being felt from both within the Northwest Territories and upstream in Alberta and British Columbia, we must ensure our rich natural resources are protected. It also requires a willingness at the political level to make change.

We believe the Water Stewardship Strategy and this action plan represent such a change. The collaborative, inclusive approach we've used to develop these initiatives should be seen as a model for how we, as a government, plan on managing water and land resources when responsibility is devolved.

The action plan will address a number of issues including the rapid pace of oilsands and hydroelectric development in the upstream reaches of the Mackenzie River Basin. It will also serve as a foundation as we continue negotiations on a bilateral transboundary water agreement with Alberta.

During the past fiscal year this government has helped form the Slave River and Delta Partnership that includes the GNWT and 15 different organizations as water partners working towards a community-based water quality and fish monitoring program. An expert was also contracted to assist in developing a source water protection model that will assist all communities in the NWT in developing their own personalized plan.

As water partners we must continue to show strong leadership in water stewardship to ensure the sustainable use of this valuable resource. Decisions on how the waters within our watersheds are used have the potential to affect many ecosystems. With this action plan, we can develop and execute sound and effective water management policies. Mahsi.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 21-16(6):
ARREARS

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation continues to work with the local housing organizations (LHOs) in their rent collection efforts under the Public Housing Program. This work is intended to increase collection of rent and

rental arrears. These funds are reinvested in community housing.

Mr. Speaker, the success of the Public Housing Program depends on a partnership between the Housing Corporation, LHOs and tenants. If each does their part, it contributes to the sustainability of the program and reduces the cost of living to Northwest Territories residents and it also contributes to the overall sustainability, vibrancy and safety of communities, one of the goals of this Assembly.

As Members are aware, public housing arrears have accumulated over a number of years. They are now a significant challenge to us and to communities in our efforts to address housing needs.

We recognize that the long-term solution to housing relies on partnerships with communities and individuals, and an understanding that addressing arrears is a shared responsibility. We also believe that our approach must be fair and equitable, recognizing that many of our public housing tenants have faithfully paid their rents for many years. We work closely with tenants so they can stay in their homes. We counsel them and help them to develop repayment plans.

Local housing organizations are doing excellent work in delivering the Public Housing Program. Although some LHOs continue to face challenges, the NWTHC and LHOs are working together to ensure a common and consistent approach. Most LHOs have improved their assessment and collection rates. In just the last year, monthly assessments have increased from 65 to 90 percent. We also have approximately six LHOs that have a collection rate of over 100 percent, reflecting collections of both monthly payments and arrears. We expect that our year-end financial statements will show a strong correlation between improvements in rent assessments and collections.

But it is still a challenge in some communities. We need to make sure that all of our tenants are aware that their rent is an investment in their community.

Mr. Speaker, it is encouraging to see that more and more tenants are choosing to work with our LHOs in order to succeed and remain in their homes. The majority of tenants pay their rent on a regular basis and I want to thank them for continuing to work with their community LHOs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 22-16(6):
2011 CENSUS AND
NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The time has come again where representatives from Statistics Canada have fanned out across the

Northwest Territories to complete the national census.

The Government of Canada is required to conduct a census of the population every five years. Historically, the census has been composed of two mandatory parts. The "short form" questionnaire which includes questions on a number of people in the dwelling, their age and gender, and information on languages, and the "long form" questionnaire which looked at more detailed subject areas such as Aboriginal identity, education, housing and employment. For 2011 the federal government has eliminated the mandatory long form for the census and replaced it with a voluntary survey called the National Household Survey.

It is important that residents of the NWT complete both the census and the National Household Survey for a number of reasons. Many national and territorial programs use population estimates based on the census to distribute funding, including the territorial financing formula. Since each person counted in the NWT yields approximately \$28,000 per person per year from the federal government, it is important to all Northerners that every person is counted in the census so that we can continue to deliver programs and services. NWT residents need to ensure that they include all members of their family in the census, including those who are away at school or working in the mines or anyone else staying with them with no regular home.

Completing the National Household Survey is also important as it helps us understand how our communities are doing with respect to education levels, employment patterns, housing conditions and income. These statistics are the foundation for community planning, monitoring programs, developing policies and identifying emerging issues.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all residents of the Northwest Territories to complete both the census and the National Household Survey, and I ask my colleagues to promote this important initiative in their constituencies.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of the Northwest Territories for participating in the census and the National Household Survey. These important sources of community information would not be available without the cooperation and goodwill of our residents.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 23-16(6):
INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE
LEISHMAN INCIDENT AT STANTON

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 12th, during question period, I indicated that I would share with committee the report and recommendations, and I will do that on a confidential basis. I am prevented legally from sharing the report. Subsection 15(4) of the Evidence Act prevents any person with whom the report is shared from disclosing it unless it is for the purpose of medical research or medical education. It can also be shared for the purpose of other quality assurance committee activities which are carried out by quality assurance committees.

I wish to clarify that, as I stated previously, I will provide Standing Committee on Social Programs with any recommendations that result from the review of the incident and that I will also share those recommendations with Mrs. Leishman.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of this House to proceed and advance to recognition of visitors in the gallery under today's agenda item number five.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to highlight the inductees for 2011 Education Hall of Fame that are here with us: Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Lucy Lafferty, Ed Jeske, Margaret Field, Dorothy Beaulieu and Garth Brasseur. Congratulations.

[English translation not provided.]

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize constituents of mine in the gallery today: Mrs. Dorothy Beaulieu and Mr. Angus Beaulieu, her husband.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to recognize Mandy Day, part of the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre in Inuvik.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the Grade 5 class from Sissons that's here today in the gallery and has been visiting the Assembly. The students who are visiting us here today are: Kienan Ashton, Aliya Aumond, Nicolas Bennett, Grace Clark, Sophie Clark, Daniel Enge, Noah Hache, Delilah Hashi, Sean Irwin, Jack Panayi, Jacob Schubert, Lauren Seabrook, Jesper Sorensen, Niva Stephenson, Sarah Taggart-Miles, Anne Thomas, Elizabeth Thomas, and their teacher, Monique Marinier.

Finally, I would also like to recognize Mr. Ed Jeske, a worthy recipient of today's Education Hall of Fame Award, and of course the lovely Ms. Vivian Squires, executive director of the YK Seniors' Society.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to stand today and recognize Ms. Tina McNeill from the Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre in Fort Smith.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize all of the recent inductees into the Education Hall of Fame. In particular, my old friend and teaching colleague, Mr. Ed Jeske. I'd also like to recognize Mr. Garry Hubert, who is the executive director of the SideDoor Ministries.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the gallery a good constituent of mine, Mr. Amir Suliman. I would also like to welcome all the participants of the youth centre's conference that's going on here in Yellowknife. I'm sure their MLAs will stand up and recognize them, but we have I think four or five of them up there that are not from the Northwest Territories and I'll use this as an opportunity to recognize them: Josy Labbe from Youth Centres Canada, Dale Pearson from Youth Centres Canada, Kevin Morris from Youth Centres Canada, Benjamin Leikin from the City of Ottawa, and Colby Tootosis from the City of Saskatoon. Welcome to the NWT and welcome to the Assembly.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize constituents of Nahendeh in the gallery here: Mr. Aaron McNabb, executive director of the Deh Cho Friendship Centre in Fort Simpson;

Ms. Breagh Ingarfield from Nahanni Butte; and Ms. Shaylene Moses out of Wrigley. Mahsi cho and welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome everybody here today. I want to especially recognize an inductee to the Hall of Fame, a well-known educator from Fort Providence, Ms. Margaret Field. She's been working for many years at the school and more recently as an adult educator. She was here as a senior parliamentarian and did a very good job. I want to say congratulations to her. I also wanted to congratulate her on her most recent addition to her clan, her recent grandchild that was born about a month ago.

I also wanted to, since I don't get very many visitors here, recognize a former resident of Fort Providence, Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew and her husband. I want to say welcome to them, too.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the delegation of youth at the Tree of Peace conference: Sheena Kochon from Colville Lake, Gloria Gaudet from the community of Deline, Freda Kelly from Gahcho Kue Dene Fort Good Hope community, and Myles Erb, one of the Canol trekkers from Norman Wells.

I also want to recognize Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew and her husband Leon, and to congratulate Ethel on her achievement of being a Hall of Famer in education.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start by recognizing some members of Weledeh in Ms. Marinier's class. I'd like to start with Miss Sophie Clark and Miss Grace Clark, Miss Niva Stephenson, Master Kienan Ashton, Master Jack Panayi. Welcome to the House.

I'd also like to add my congratulations to all of the recent inductees into the Education Hall of Fame and thank them for their tremendous work.

I see Father Don Flumerfelt who used to be of Yellowknife -- I'm not sure where he is these days -- in the House. I'd like to recognize him.

Perhaps most importantly I'd like to recognize my mother, Barbara Bromley, resident of Yellowknife and Weledeh and with a bevy of old-time Yellowknifers including Jan Stirling, Ed Jeske and Vivian Squires.

Finally, I'd like to recognize some old friends from Rendezvous Lake: Billy and Eileen Jacobson.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize all the nominees to the Education Hall of Fame. In particular I want to recognize Ed Jeske. I'll have to bow to him every time I see him now with all of his nominations.

Also Ethel Blondin-Andrew, a fellow student at Grandin College for many years, and her husband, Leon Andrew.

Margaret Field, another Fort Providencer from way back.

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

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a couple of constituents from the Great Slave riding. First I'd like to recognize Ms. Jan Stirling. I'd also like to recognize Mr. Mark Bogan.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it is an honour of mine to welcome my uncle, Billy Jacobson and my auntie, Eileen, from Rendezvous Lake in Tuktoyaktuk.

I'd like to welcome Annie Smith, Ethel Blondin-Andrew, and Leon. It's good to see them.

A constituent from Paulatuk, Lanita Thrasher; and from Sachs Harbour, Jolene Donovan. Welcome to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. It gives me great pleasure today to recognize my wife, Davida, in the gallery today. It's not very often I get to introduce her. Also with her is my executive assistant, Sue Tkachuk.

I would also like to recognize Father Don in the Chamber today. He's the parish priest from Hay River. Welcome.

If we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience in here.

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DUST CONTROL IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

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

Today I wish to talk about the problem with dust in the Tu Nedhe communities. In Fort Resolution the

hamlet council plans to have the community chipsealed this summer. I understand they have put the money into the plan to chipseal the community. I believe they are looking at the economies of scale and will be working with DOT to have the community chipsealed while Highway No. 6 is being done.

In Lutselk'e the situation is quite different. In Lutselk'e the community plan on paper does not match the actual siting of the residential houses in the community. However, the community does not wish to relocate the houses and would rather have the plan redrawn to match actual sitings of the houses.

In the summer months there is a cloud of dust sitting over Lutselk'e as long as there are vehicles moving around the community. Lutselk'e has just become responsible for the municipal services in the last two or three years. I feel that they could use the support from this government to make it possible to put some dust suppressant on the road this summer or fall.

The Department of MACA must continue to provide support and the logistics of actually getting the product into Lutselk'e and some technical support to apply the product. I have spoken to the SAO and he advises me that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to get the work completed this summer without the support of the government.

MACA should not be taking the position that they are no longer responsible for completing capital projects in the communities. What will it take for MACA's staff to ensure that this project gets completed? The project is very important to the whole community. The community needs the project completed this summer. They have the funding and they need the assistance in the technical aspects of the project, such as the amount of material needed, what preparation work is needed, and the marshalling of the materials and equipment into the community.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DUST CONTROL IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Four years ago, it was reported in the Globe and Mail newspaper, the Federation of Municipalities of Canada reported that we needed at least \$123 billion to repair or replace municipal infrastructure in Canada. It's beyond our wildest imagination as to where or how Canada will ever find those resources in today's economy let alone the Northwest Territories communities. We have gas tax initiatives, community planning and infrastructure funding, and in some places, the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. However, this is not enough

and will never be enough if we really want to begin doing all that we need to do for the municipal infrastructure.

Some time back, Fort Good Hope and other smaller communities benefited from the GNWT main street chipseal program, which to some people was a great thing. It cut down on the dust and gave people a sense of what a community can expect with government helping with this problem. However, this program was cut and now the community has to take over the program along with other projects. Because of competing priorities, the chipseal has deteriorated and there are giant potholes in the roads of Fort Good Hope. It is in need of much repair.

Mr. Speaker, even four by fours have a difficult time getting out of these giant potholes, let alone a regular pickup. My point, Mr. Speaker, we need to begin to reprofile some of the dollars that will eliminate the dust once and for all and consider advancing discussions with companies like Easy Street to help Fort Good Hope and other communities with potholes. MACA has moved a long way to empower communities with decision-making abilities and it is the right thing to do. However, we all know municipalities are our government, and our government must find the solutions to settle the dust once and for all, or at least get out of the potholes. I think so, my community leaders think so, and this government should also help us in this solution. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 26th of this year the Premier of the Northwest Territories signed an agreement-in-principle on devolution of public lands and resources to the Government of the Northwest Territories from the federal government.

On February 2, 2011, I held my regular constituency meeting for residents of the Great Slave riding. I hold one prior to every session. One of the issues which was discussed at length during that meeting was the recent AIP on devolution in the Northwest Territories. Clearly, there are many varied opinions out there on this topic. To that end, during the meeting I agreed with a request from one of my constituents to poll my constituents to get a sense of where they stand on this important issue.

As such, immediately after the winter session I set up a poll on my website asking a few devolution-related questions. I notified all of my constituents by way of my regular newsletters and included references on my website and did a public news

release, as well. Although my focus for the poll was on my constituents' input, I did open the poll to all residents of the Northwest Territories so I could include their thoughts and their input. Here are the questions and the results:

Question one was: Do you support the transfer of management of Crown lands and a share of resource revenue from the federal government to the GNWT and Aboriginal government?

Out of 67 individual responses, 82 percent, or 55, said yes; 18 percent, or 12 people, said no.

The second question was: Do you support the GNWT in moving forward with the negotiations of a final devolution agreement?

Out of 66 individual responses, 42 percent, or 28 individuals, said yes, but make every reasonable effort to include all Aboriginal governments and organizations in the negotiations; 35 percent, or 23 individuals, said yes, commencing with negotiations with the existing signatories; and 23 percent, or 15 individuals, said no.

The third question was: Do you support the GNWT signing a final agreement on devolution?

Out of 71 individual responses, 30 percent, or 21 people, said yes, with the existing signatories; 27 percent, or 19, said yes, with a signed bilateral agreement between the GNWT and the federal government; 17 percent, or 12, said yes, only if at least 50 percent of recognized Aboriginal governments and organizations will also sign; 14 percent, or 10, said yes, only if all recognized Aboriginal governments and organizations agreed to sign on as well; 12 percent, or 9 people, said no.

Mr. Speaker, during the winter session, in response to questions from Members, the Premier agreed to meet with interested parties throughout the Northwest Territories to provide information and clarity on what devolution of public...

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, during the winter session, in response to questions from Members, the Premier agreed to meet with interested parties throughout the Northwest Territories to provide both information and clarity on what devolution of public lands and resources means to the Northwest Territories.

To that end, this evening the Yellowknife MLAs will be holding a public information session for all residents of Yellowknife with the Premier of the Northwest Territories. This will be an opportunity for all Yellowknife residents to ask the Premier their questions about devolution, and an opportunity for all Yellowknife MLAs to hear what Yellowknifers think about this important topic.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing many Yellowknife residents in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly this evening starting at 7 p.m. for this meeting. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOUSING CORPORATION TENANCY ARREARS

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current way the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation manages their tenants' arrears is obviously not working. I think these procedures have been unrealistic for far too long.

My colleagues and I representing small and remote communities are sitting in this Assembly year after year telling the honourable Minister that the government's current system is broken.

The Housing Corporation is not getting what they need; the tenants in small communities are not getting what they need; and meanwhile, the less privileged residents are suffering. Our single mothers with no employment, our elders with no support, and people who are finding it tougher and tougher just to get by are all affected, and that's a shame, Mr. Speaker.

We need to get realistic about the problem. We know the economic and social situation of these affected communities, so we need to develop a plan to address them rather than just evicting them. Evicting our residents who have no way to pay, no short-term opportunities, is just changing one problem to another. If this government continues to deal with the arrears in the way they have been in the past, the results are going to get more serious. We already have serious overcrowding conditions resulting in health and social problems. Some of our residents live in shacks because they have nowhere to go, and that's a shame from this government, Mr. Speaker.

The respective Minister of this government needs to help these people to get back some dignity in their lives. When someone loses a job and then they lose their home, they lose hope and this results in serious social problems. We can no longer have this situation left to the market conditions to fix itself. This is unrealistic. In the wintertime the temperatures in Nunakput communities can easily range from minus 30 to minus 50, and that's not including the wind. For the families being evicted, the conditions are inhumane and wrong.

Every community in Nunakput is having major problems in the way housing is being evaluated and administered. I wonder if this government and the Housing Corporation recognize the impact that they're making in the region. The small and remote communities have nowhere to go. There are no

shelters like here in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, the service programs.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if these evictions are being directed by the central office to local housing authorities that are forced to do their dirty work on behalf of the NWT Housing Corporation. Just saying that, the Housing Corporation's problem with the rules followed is wrong. People deserve more. They deserve our respect and compassion.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. JACOBSON: As I stated previously, overcrowding in housing units is a symptom of a much larger systemic problem and causes many problems in the communities. Mr. Speaker, this government must see firsthand how their policies in the NWT Housing Corporation headquarters are affecting small and remote communities. They must get in touch with the concerns of the communities. Until that happens, Mr. Speaker, the policies will never truly recognize the housing challenges in the small and remote communities.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the honourable Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GNWT INVOLVEMENT IN AMENDMENTS TO THE MACKENZIE VALLEY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government is proposing to amend the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, the most fundamental and key environmental review legislation we have. And just in case you missed it, Mr. Speaker, the federal government is proposing to amend the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.

I was surprised to learn from outside sources that this government is consulting with INAC on these amendments. Once again, the GNWT response is being compiled by GNWT deputy ministers or Cabinet without any plan for seeking input of Regular Members through committee. Despite requests, I have still not received the list of amendments being considered.

Last week I learned from another outside source that INAC is also consulting with stakeholders on creation of an NWT surface rights board act. Again, I have yet to receive this information through committee. My research indicates that the board will "provide a single process for dispute resolution between surface rights and subsurface rights holders who have been unable to reach a

negotiated access agreement." My source, the industry journal Pipeline News, also says MVRMA amendments will "clarify terms, enact timelines and may include board restructuring while NWT Waters Act amendments will define the jurisdiction of the board."

These are huge changes, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the readers of Pipeline News and the public groups being asked for their input have a better pipeline to information than our standing committees.

Mr. Speaker, I've strongly stated my views previously, that without all our Aboriginal governments at the devolution table, we cannot develop a respectful and successful regulatory regime. I've also called repeatedly for this government to ask our citizens what resource regime we want for our future. Rather than spending more than a half a million dollars on the blue sky Creating Our Future Together process we could have been, and still could be, asking our citizens real questions towards made-in-the-NWT law to manage our birthright.

When devolution goes ahead we need to be ready, not to bring down the same old made-in-Ottawa law and mismanagement, Mr. Speaker. We need to prepare now with our Aboriginal partners at the table to map our future cooperatively.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Is keeping the committees of this consensus government in the dark when critical changes are in the works a strategy of this government? Is refusing to go to all residents of our territory to hear their vision of a responsible land and resource management regime part of this strategy? What's the significance of not having our Aboriginal partners at the devolution table while all this transpires?

I'll be asking these questions later today, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

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

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to some of the statements that have been made regarding young people at risk in that 14 to 16 age group, I'd like to add my observations and comments, and question if our government could do more to support parents that are going through a difficult time with their teenagers.

Mr. Ramsay shared a story of a mother's frustration. It seems that she can only sit by

helplessly while observing her daughter making choices that may change the course of her life permanently, and not for the good.

First of all, let's get the myth off the table that this only happens in someone else's family, or to children of parents who must have failed in some way along the parenthood path. Young people from homes of all socio and economic and even religious backgrounds can go through a phase that can put their well-being in jeopardy. They are of an age where the parents have very few discipline tools at their disposal to counter this quest for control and seeming disregard for boundaries. I'm sure if we surveyed even the leaders sitting in this room today, some would admit that they put their parents through more than a few sleepless nights of worry, and to some extent this may be some rite of passage and no irreparable harm results. But for too many, these risky choices made in these tender years set a young person on a path of destructive behaviour and unhealthy choices.

As Minister Miltenberger expressed earlier in the week, there seems little that parents or authorities can do to intervene due to the rights and autonomy of a young person, the right to choose for themselves where they go, who they associate with and what they do. So what can we do as a government to support parents who fear for the well-being of their children and look to the social workers, police, teachers and other parents and this government to help support them help their child make it through these years intact?

Here's how I've heard so many of these stories unfold. Little Johnny is a good student, an accomplished athlete, an all around good kid. Then comes the high school years, the peer pressure, the temptations and the next thing we know Johnny is out behind the school smoking dope with a bunch of his friends. Some may say innocent enough, but it is illegal and it can be the start of much worse things.

Some parents tune into it right away and it's off to a strict private school, and for those who can impose this and afford it, maybe it's a solution, but what about everyone else? Now the stakes are raised and there's experimentation with harder drugs and excessive alcohol and the rebellion is in full swing. Now the problem becomes each and every decision being made in this downward spiral is made under the influence of impaired judgment and a sense of being invincible.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Some kids will come to their senses and pull back. They find an appeal of such choices worn off and turn their attention to

wholesome pursuits. But what about the ones who don't, the ones entangled in a life of struggle with addictions? What can we as a government do to support the parents and caregivers through these years? I don't think we can throw up our hands and say hey, you're on your own. They are people with a right to their own choices, even if these choices are unquestionably bad choices.

I believe that we need to do more to support parents, maybe counselling, coping skills, the understanding of other parents who have been there, social workers specially trained in the management of these types of behaviours, training for educators who can detect early on and liaise with parents of children who are showing the signs of destructive behaviour, maybe even placement options, not necessarily foster care, but alternative care with programming to teach and help young people to set better boundaries for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, in question period today I'll have further questions on this matter for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REALIGNMENT OF HIGHWAY NO. 4 INGRAHAM TRAIL

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last November I spoke about the proposed realignment of Highway No. 4, the Ingraham Trail. The highway needs to be realigned to accommodate the remediation process at the former Giant Mine property. The realignment has been on the drawing board for four years now. Three options were put out in the public realm by the Department of Transportation. Seeing as the majority of the capital costs of the realignment will be funded by the federal government, we must use this as an opportunity to maximize benefits to our residents.

Last November the Minister of Transportation told me to have some patience, Mr. Speaker, even though the process had been dragging on for three years at the time. Mr. Speaker, I do have patience, but when seven more months go by and we still have no idea of what is going to happen with the realignment, then I have to ask some more questions about where this issue currently is at.

The Minister also stated that construction of the road realignment would start in the fall of 2011. That's only three or four months from now. So again, where are the committee and the department on this issue?

Mr. Speaker, if the option is chosen to bypass most of the mine infrastructure -- the option that I fully support, by the way -- then it will bring many

opportunities for both businesses, residents and tourists.

Prior to being elected in 2003, I worked as a tourism development officer in the North Slave region, and it was apparent then that Yellowknife was in desperate need of an RV park. That was eight years ago. The issue has just seemed to disappear while demand continues to skyrocket. The realignment of Highway No. 4 could be the much needed catalyst for finally expanding the campground at Fred Henne Territorial Park to include more RV sites. This will not only be good for local residents who frequent Fred Henne Park but also for the tourists who oftentimes show up and are told that the park and the campground are full.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is we need a decision to be made and I hope that we as a government can make the case that we want to maximize opportunities where we can. I look forward to asking the Minister of Transportation again today how it is that we are making a case for taking the option to bypass all of the mine's infrastructure, thus opening up a whole new world of possibilities for new development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the previous election that took place, one of the predominant issues at hand was the whole devolution process in the Northwest Territories and where a particular candidate stood on the issue. Mr. Speaker, not only in the campaign but also full-page ads, which were paid by this government, to combat certain opponents of the Devolution Agreement, especially the Gwich'in leadership and the Gwich'in people that I represent, which I took offense to the article I read in the paper.

Mr. Speaker, the question that's being asked out there is how can the Premier explain the lack of any participation on the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle to the federal government and to the federal opposition leader in light of what is happening, where we have two Aboriginal groups at the table, where six are not presently partaking.

Mr. Speaker, the question also has to be asked, exactly what is this Premier doing to advance the talks on devolution with the Gwich'in and other Aboriginal and Dene leaders throughout the Northwest Territories and ensure there is a current outstanding process that they can be involved in. Land claim agreements allow for arbitration. There also are appeal mechanisms in regards to how you

can appeal certain mechanisms in those agreements.

---Proceedings interrupted due to power outage

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krutko, you may continue.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are mechanisms we can use to entice people to the table, but more importantly, mechanisms, if we can't work with them, let's find a person who can bring the parties to the table, bring the parties with their issues, and at the end of the day, have a deal for all Northerners and have the best deal we can for the Northwest Territories and the people that we serve.

Mr. Speaker, there has to be questions out there and resolutions to these outstanding problems. Mr. Speaker, Dene issues and Dene concerns are valid. They have concerns about what's happening with Norman Wells and why it isn't on the table. They have concerns on exactly how management of lands and resources are going to be handled in their regions, regardless of whether it's the Gwich'in or Inuvialuit or Sahtu or Tlicho or the Deh Cho, so they know that any activities or decisions that are going to be made will be done in consolidation with the people that are going to be affected by those decisions.

Mr. Speaker, we, as government and as a Legislature, have to be attuned to what's being said out there about the lack of Dene participation in a process of that magnitude in regards to where we are going in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the leadership in the Northwest Territories have made it blatantly clear to the Premier and other northern leaders that if we can't agree to devolution, why are we even talking about a northern vision if we expect to move forward on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, it's critical that this Premier ensures that there are going to be meetings held with those groups who are basically outside the tent and are not presently fully participating and willing to sign, but we have to find a mechanism for them to be heard, regardless if it's the obligations we have in land claim agreements, which clearly stipulated that they shall be involved in these negotiations, in which they are not. Also, the ongoing negotiations of devolution, including a package that will be beneficial to all Northerners, all residents and, more importantly, the Aboriginal people who are the ones who are ultimately going to be affected by what happens on their lands. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BETTY HOUSE TRANSITION HOUSING FOR WOMEN

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been a longstanding need for transition housing in Yellowknife for women, and through the leadership of the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition, we are now getting closer to achieving that goal by addressing some of that need.

The Betty House is short for Better Environment to Transition in Yellowknife. This transition house will help northern women in addressing the homelessness issue and helping those at risk of becoming homeless, giving them a place to go.

Mr. Speaker, Betty House will provide a stable atmosphere for women who have no place to go and are trying to get through and get out of challenging situations. It will provide a safe place for them to begin their lives and put their lives in order.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the hard work of the YWCA for championing this project, and more specifically, I'd like to recognize the City of Yellowknife and their homelessness coordinator, Dale Hernblad, for her leadership on this particular project.

Recently, the Betty House received very welcome news from BHP Billiton. They contributed \$700,000 towards the estimated \$6 million cost of building the Betty House. Mr. Speaker, that is a significant contribution towards this project and their generosity is certainly greatly appreciated by all.

The Yellowknife Community Foundation, a very well-known NGO in our city here, is contributing money. The City of Yellowknife is moving forward on this initiative by contributing efforts, resources and money, and private sector partners are all wanting to contribute in some way or form. The question really then that comes to mind is: where is the Government of the Northwest Territories?

Mr. Speaker, later today I will have questions for the Minister responsible for homelessness as to what partnership role our government is providing in this important initiative providing much needed transition housing for women in the city and in the North. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS

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

Summer is on our doorstep, Mr. Speaker, and students have come back from colleges and universities ready to work. I have received four inquiries from Nahendeh students looking for

opportunities within the territorial government. The GNWT needs to hire summer students not just in Yellowknife but in all our communities and regions.

Many government employees take holidays, leaving positions vacant for weeks at a time; a summer student could fill those positions with little impact on our overall budget. The passive restraint this government is exercising does not need to impact our future or the ability for students to earn much needed income for the fall time when they return to school.

A summer job is a great opportunity for a young person to experience the work world and acquire skills. Many students recall summer jobs during university as a valid learning experience that helped them make decisions about their future career. Taking on the responsibility of a full-time job helped build maturity and leadership.

The NWT is lucky to have young people who are willing to work. We often talk about supporting our youth, but when it comes to job opportunities, this year the support seems weak. Students that spoke with me were upset last year when there were opportunities now that our commitment for summer employment is obviously declined or even absent. I don't believe passive restraint should be used for these valuable summer work opportunities. Reduction in government should not be on our youth and students. Let's turn our intentions into actions, Mr. Speaker, and get these students employed. Mahsi cho.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MULTI-YEAR FUNDING FOR NGOS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with regret that I have to, again, bring up the subject of how we fund one of our most valuable resources, the non-government partner organizations who deliver GNWT programs and services for us.

There is a need to better fund our NGOs, one that is not acknowledged by this government. In February I suggested to the House that the GNWT should not only provide multi-year funding, but multi-year core funding for our NGO partners. In my mind, multi-year contracts are a no-brainer, but the NGOs I hear from cannot convince the GNWT to enter into multi-year contracts.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, I recently learned that the government does provide five-year funding agreements to some organizations that we make contributions to. The time that our NGOs have to spend negotiating and developing contracts with the government is huge. Many receive funding from more than one government department and our obstructionist policies require them to have a contract with each one. The imposition that that

requirement places on an organization which usually has little administration capacity to begin with is large.

Core funding would provide an NGO with financial stability and some freedom from the excessive administrative burden we place on them. For one, it would reduce the number of contracts they have to negotiate and sign, saving time and money for both the NGO and the GNWT.

Core funding would enable those multiple contracts to be reduced to one. As well, many NGOs are funded for programs which they deliver year after year. The NWT Seniors' Society, for instance, has successfully delivered the 1-800 Seniors Information Line since 1995. Yet, now some 16 years later, they must still apply every year for funding to run this program. The government knows that the program is needed every year, they know the society does a good job delivering it, they know the Seniors' Society is the best NGO for the job. Why, then, do we not provide them with a base funding amount to cover the services and programs that we know we want them to deliver for us?

On another note, we need to provide NGOs with regular increases in their funding; increases geared to the cost of living. Currently, no provision exists which takes into account increases in the operational costs for an NGO: salary increases, increased costs for equipment and supplies, the rise in cost of infrastructure and so on. The government must provide our NGO partners with adequate funds to cover two things: the cost of running the organization and the cost of programs and services that they do on an ongoing basis. Other projects which are beyond their normal activities would then be funded on an application basis.

The work, the services...

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Bisaro, your time for your Member's statement is expired.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. The work, the services and the programs the NGOs do on behalf of the GNWT is invaluable. It's time to rethink how we fund our NGO partners before it's too late and we lose them. I will have questions for the Premier and the Minister of the Executive at the appropriate time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5-16(6): PASSING OF MATTHEW (MATT) BENYK

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Matthew (Matt) Benyk. Mr. Benyk lived a very long and full life, most of it in northern Manitoba and northern Alberta. Several years ago he moved to Yellowknife to live with his daughter Pearl, a long-time Northerner and a resident of Northland in Frame Lake.

Condolences go out to Pearl and the rest of her family from the Members of the Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 91-16(6): DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier and they are in follow-up from my Member's statement earlier today. Could the Premier please give us an update on the status of the devolution negotiations between the GNWT and the other signatories of the AIP and the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The status at this point, although delayed by the federal election, there has been no formal negotiations. We have been working with the parties, northern parties that have signed the AIP, on a work plan. So that is where we are at this point. We expect that over the summer, negotiations may begin on initial pieces being put on the table, but we'll have to wait to see with the appointment of a federal Minister how they will re-engage on this file. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: During the winter session the Premier made a commitment to Regular Members to meet with residents of the Northwest Territories throughout the Northwest Territories to provide some clarity and information on the devolution process and what devolution means to the residents of the Northwest Territories. Could the Premier tell us what steps he has taken to meet with the residents of the Northwest Territories to provide this information and clarity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Since the signing of the agreement-in-principle, we've taken a number of

initiatives to get as much of the facts out to the public as we could. We did a householder, radio ads, as well as had meetings; for example, at the request of the Sahtu, travelled up there and had a meeting with a number of the communities on the agreement-in-principle. We went again into the Sahtu more with a Chamber event and spoke to them about the agreement-in-principle. We took the opportunity to raise the issue in Hay River with the Chamber there as well as in Inuvik. As well, as the Member stated, we've taken advantage of all opportunities when Members or leadership make requests to travel into their communities. We will be looking to add to that as we begin negotiations and use, for example, this evening's town hall with Members of Yellowknife and the public to further discuss the AIP.

MR. ABERNETHY: In my poll, one of the questions was: Do you support the GNWT moving forward with negotiations on a final devolution agreement? The most popular response, with 42 percent of the vote, was yes, but make every reasonable effort to include all Aboriginal governments and organizations in the negotiations. Could the Premier please let me know what steps his office is taking to include Aboriginal governments and organizations in the negotiations of a final Devolution Agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: The process that we've engaged in, and will continue to engage in, in bringing partners to the table is one where we've communicated prior to the signing of the AIP of a process. We looked at establishing a protocol; unfortunately, that wasn't successful.

Since the signing of the AIP, we've informed and keep all groups informed of the work we are about to do. Hopefully in the near future we'll send another letter to all of the leadership explaining the work we've done setting up a work plan, and continue to urge them to come back to the table for more discussions and signing of the agreement-in-principle to look at how we could continue. The door remains open going forward on the basis of moving forward on an agreement-in-principle and we hope again that they would take the opportunity to come forward, whether it's days or weeks coming up towards negotiations.

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

QUESTION 92-16(6): DUST CONTROL IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talk about the infrastructure in our small communities and I specifically spoke about the potholes and Fort Good Hope's chipsealing program that the government has eliminated. I want to ask the Minister of MACA, in

light of all the initiatives we have done to empower our communities to make their own decisions and the limited amount of funding the communities have to compete with other priorities, is MACA looking at other options within the municipality in the NWT Federation of Municipalities or even the Government of Canada to look at how we can help small communities deal with chipsealing issues, repairs or just to get these programs into the communities because we have such a limited budget here in the North?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've stated on a number of occasions in the past, responsibility for community infrastructure now lies with the community. We have been fortunate that we have been able to access the Building Canada Plan money, the infrastructure stimulus money, as well as all the infrastructure money that we give to the communities. They have received a significant amount of money. If there are any projects that are meaning to be done in the community, it would be a community responsibility to identify the projects and work with the funding that they do have.

MR. YAKELEYA: With the amount of responsibilities that we give to the communities, there needs to be the matching dollars to go with the responsibility. I want to ask the Minister if there are any discussions, either with his Cabinet or his own staff, to look at other additional support funding such as the ones that he's listed off. We appreciate it, but there are ones we could look at within the life of this government to see if funding like this could be discussed at a federal-provincial level to look at chipsealing programs and dust control in our communities.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: With the responsibility that we've given the community, we like to believe that we've given them a significant amount of money to help them with that. It's a benefit to the community in a number of ways.

In all our dealings with the NWT Association of Communities, meeting with the mayors and councils and that, we've really had no concerns, and we continue to work with them and making sure that they have the capacity, that they're trained to take on the responsibility. My understanding is the Minister of infrastructure, Mr. McLeod, will at his first opportunity be raising with the federal Minister, once he's named, our desire to explore other funding options for the Northwest Territories.

MR. YAKELEYA: I look forward to that. It's good news that the Minister has noted that the Minister of infrastructure along with the honourable Minister to look at how they can support communities. I want to ask the Minister if he's going to involve the other

municipalities in the North to look at how they can get their message to the Minister of infrastructure once the meeting is held with this government to look at dollars that could be supported in the communities for infrastructure such as the potholes or if we want to somehow initiate some partnership on chipsealing some of the communities.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Each community has five-year capital plans and I've had the opportunity to see some of the plans. They've identified some of their priorities in the community and I want to commend them for doing a very good job. We have a very strong NWT Association of Communities membership. The president sometimes attends the Federation of Communities and Municipalities, FCM, and they have opportunity there again to raise any concerns that they might have with funding from the federal government to the Northwest Territories. It is an ongoing work but we continue to support the communities with a lot of technical expertise and training. We'll continue to go along those lines, but the communities themselves have done a very good job at working with the money that's given to them.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister, with the support of technical and training to the communities, has the Minister entered any discussions with a company called Easy Street that can look at repairs to the chipsealed roads that are already done in the communities that have done main street chipsealing?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That is a program that is no longer available. This was before the communities had the responsibility of making their own decisions. I'm sure if the community has some concerns, then they will initiate discussions with Easy Street and see if it's something that's feasible for them to apply to their roads. At the end of the day, I'd like to point out that the ultimate responsibility and the decision lies with the community.

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

QUESTION 93-16(6):
GNWT INVOLVEMENT IN AMENDMENTS
TO THE MACKENZIE VALLEY
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've received a copy of the recent e-mail from INAC's Ottawa-based director of resource policy and programs updating agencies and groups on progress under the federal government's May 2010 Action Plan to Improve the Northern Regulatory Regime. The memo refers to work on developing

an NWT surface rights board act. I don't recall committee receiving any information on this. Certainly I've heard nothing on any action that could redefine the jurisdiction of the NWT Water Board. I'm wondering if the appropriate Minister could tell me whether his department is aware of and/or participating in these surface rights consultations.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we discussed somewhat in this House last week, this process is driven by the federal government. They've, for the most part, treated the GNWT as just another stakeholder. There's been some improvement in that relationship since the signing of the AIP. The proposed surface rights legislation which is contemplated in the MVRMA, there was a first draft done in 2010 and we're still waiting for a possible second draft. Things were delayed because of the election.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate the Minister's remarks. I just hope the others that are being consulted include their membership a little more efficiently, or at all, than our Minister has. So far my best source of detailed information on the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, surface rights and Water Board matters is an industry journal and the sharing of information by public parties. Yet principle three, as you know, of the 10 Guiding Principles of Consensus Government, includes "open and respectful communication between all Members is the most essential feature of consensus government. While it is impossible to reach unanimous agreement on all issues, the opportunity for all Members to have meaningful input into important decisions is fundamental." I would suggest that the MVRMA is important to our Members. Can the Minister explain how the record of consultation with Members on these amendments honours the 10 Guiding Principles?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member has been quoting from documents that I don't have. I take his point about consultation. This is a federal process. This is federal legislation. We have been, for the most part, up until recently, treated like a stakeholder, much to our chagrin. They're expecting the second draft. Most of the changes being contemplated at this point are legislative in nature. There's been no significant reply to our response to the McCrank Report that we submitted back in 2009 where there was significant changes put forward and recommended by Mr. McCrank, some of which we took exception to and did not support. That report is public and filed. This process so far is federally driven and is focussing a lot, by our estimation, on legislative changes.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister again. If I could just ask him to imagine if he feels chagrined at being treated as a stakeholder, what Members on this side of the House are feeling at not being consulted at all.

INAC's arbitrary May 12th deadline for the MVRMA consultations has come and gone. The invitation to provide input was apparently even suspended by the department during the federal election, although no corresponding extension to the deadline was given. Committee and Assembly Members had no opportunity to provide their views during this consultation. The act itself actually has specified conditions that must be met for peer consultation. Will the Minister commit to contacting the DIAND Minister and asking that the deadline be extended while the input of Members is requested and included in this government's response?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: My understanding is that the deadlines that were set by the federal government have slipped because of the election. Cabinet is not going to be sworn in or appointed until possibly tomorrow. We have this on our list to follow up on, along with many other issues. I will, of course, make note of the Member's concerns.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister taking note of my concerns. I'm just hoping that means actually consulting with us, keeping us informed what he finds out and so on. We've had McCrank; we're waiting for the Pollard Report. The possibly connected MVRMA surface rights and Waters Act consultations are underway in some unexplained way. We have the devolution AIP and we have yet to ask our citizens for their specific views on these important matters. Can the Minister say when we're going to put aside these regulatory scatter guns, get our Aboriginal partners back at the table, invite the specific views of our citizens, and proceed with one comprehensive made-in-the-NWT approach to charting our regulatory future? I'd prefer to see this before we take the plunge, not after.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This whole process is a classic example of why Northerners have to have control over their own decision-making in this area; regulatory reform and resource development, land and water.

Here we are in this Assembly trying to find out what the federal government's up to. They haven't told us clearly. They've made some comments about something dramatic that they want to do. We are concerned that they're going to do things that are not going to be in our best interest as a territory. There's been some improvement in relationships since the signing of the AIP where now the federal government has acknowledged that we're in the

process of transferring that responsibility finally to Northerners.

If the Member is content to sit here as a second-class Canadian waiting for the federal government to decide our future, then we will be here for a long time. I don't think that is what most people want, not listening to the results of Mr. Abernethy's poll that he took. We are moving on this. This is a classic reason why we want devolution. Members will be kept involved, but at this point we do not control this process. The federal government still has the authority to do something dramatic and we don't know what that is.

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

QUESTION 94-16(6):
GNWT SUPPORT FOR
WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have questions to the Minister responsible for homelessness today. In my Member's statement earlier today I talked about the issue of the Betty House and how particularly it is important to addressing the need for women who need transition housing. It's a significant step forward in addressing this particular problem and I recognize the important work provided by the YWCA as well as the City of Yellowknife, for moving this initiative forward.

BHP Billiton has generously offered and given a cheque for \$700,000 to this association so that they can work forward to accomplishing this project and addressing that need. My question to the Minister responsible for homelessness is: what is the government's specific contribution to this project ensuring that women have a place to go?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Homelessness, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We have made no specific contribution of that nature. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, what we have here is particularly very clear, in my mind. We have another community organization stepping forward addressing what really, rightfully, should be a government responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister, again, responsible for Homelessness, specifically, will there be a contribution from this government towards this initiative, and if so, when and how much? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we have a contribution and a plan and an interdepartmental plan that pools resources to deal

with homelessness across the Northwest Territories. What we have here is another situation where infrastructure is being developed because of the local will to do the construction with no O and M money in place to run it as of yet. We went through the same long process with the dementia centre and we are not in the situation fiscally where we are in a position to offer up millions of dollars of homelessness money as it doesn't now exist unless we take it from the few dollars that are shared among other communities.

These folks are moving ahead on an initiative and they are hoping to cobble together the resources to do it. We are not in a position, at this point, to contribute further support and investment to infrastructure here at the same time as we're trying to deal with a lot of the other issues outside of this community. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, BHP Billiton has generously stepped forward, as I've said, on a couple of occasions, and again their generosity needs to be acknowledged, but yet again I say this: that private sector is stepping in what truly is a government responsibility. Mr. Speaker, if these people were anywhere else, government would step down in some type of form or capacity to support an NGO to help protect these particular women at risk, yet when an initiative is presented to help provide some coordinated and safe transition housing, the government is stepping away and saying it's a community organization, they're doing their thing, none of our business.

Mr. Speaker, there are merits here and what type of initiatives or interest would it take to draw the government's responsibility in this particular case, because I think it's very important that they are stepping in in a government role. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We are, as a government, contributing millions of dollars in this community to assist in any number of buildings, with the Salvation Army, with the Bailey House, with the YWCA. All the other facilities that are on the ground here in this community are, for the most part, funded by the Government of the Northwest Territories. What we have here is a community initiative that is they're bringing together funds and now, as we move forward, the Member is trying to push this government separate from our budgeting process, separate from our capital planning process, to fund operations that we're not in the position to do that.

If any other constituency were to come forward and try to push in the back door to get into the capital plan or to get O and M money without going through the proper process, there would be great unhappiness in this Assembly by many parties about somebody that was seen to take that kind of route. This is a project that is deemed important by the community. They're doing a lot of good things to

get it funded, but as a government our capacity is extended to its fullest at present. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, it's a real shame that I'm hearing this opinion from the Minister, and it's very disheartening for those people who are trying to bring this project to life, again, supporting women who are at risk and who need an opportunity to stand on their own.

Mr. Speaker, this is more than just capital dollars; this also then leads into O and M dollars and programming dollars to make sure that this initiative does blossom and provide the types of focus and support that's needed.

Mr. Speaker, the last question would be what type of community support, programming support and O and M support is this particular Minister willing to look at to address this initiative? It's one thing to build it, but it's also another thing to help support people to get on their own feet and enable them to pursue opportunity. That is one of the visions of this government and I'd like to see that we meet that challenge. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member is aware of the financial circumstances that this government is under. I made a statement, as the Minister of Finance, laying out very clearly the challenges we face in our almost non-existent fiscal flexibility. We just heard yesterday in the House the concern about what happens if there's a major fire season, for example. Where do we get the money from? The Member is clearly aware of those restrictions.

So we have, at this point, no capacity. We have a list that is a great, long list, Mr. Speaker, of very many commendable projects that all would require our assistance that Members have stood up in this House and raised on an individual basis, on a constituency basis, that we do not have the capacity to fund. They're all good projects. Betty House is like that. We do not have the fiscal capacity at this point to be adding O and M money at a time when we all know we are trying to manage our money very carefully to face the challenges before us. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 95-16(6):

NWTHC TENANCY ARREARS IN NUNAKPUT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I was speaking about the arrears problem we have across the North and the way the government is collecting. Mr. Speaker, the residents of housing units have nowhere else to go, and given the small remote communities, we lack family shelter programs. Given the community

housing situation is already overcrowded, will this government take the action to address the real challenges of the small and remote communities and not evict people, especially in the middle of winter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a problem we are facing across the Northwest Territories. We are taking steps to deal with the rent collection. I have to point out, though, that our five best performing LHOs, as far as average arrears per unit, three of them are in the small communities. Our best average is in one of the smaller communities, so that showed me that these are communities that are honouring the commitments that they've made and these are the communities that we don't hear concerns from, from the MLAs. This is one of the reasons I believe we are in the situation we are in today where we have so much arrears, is because of political interference, not only at this level but it gets to this level at the end of the day. It all starts with the board not supporting their LHOs when they're trying to enforce rent collection. That hurts the LHOs. It hurts the tenant most of all because they realize they can go to the political leaders and have this brought to a forefront for a responsibility that was theirs and that they didn't accept.

We want to work with these people, Mr. Speaker. We've made that quite clear. It's not our intent to evict people in the wintertime, spring, summer or fall. We just don't want to evict them, but they have to work with us, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, it comes to a point sometimes of where eviction is the last option. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Well, political interference, I guess that's a pretty big one. That's my job. I represent the people in Nunakput. When people have problems, they come to me and I try to deal with them.

You know, Mr. Speaker, this government gets over \$30 million a year from the federal government for the 22 units across the North. The same funding that's either sitting empty or occupied, the money they collect is for O and M, Mr. Speaker. So why are we kicking people out in the middle of winter? It's not right.

Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the Minister if he could reconsider the evictions that are going on in the communities. Come to my community of Paulatuk and try to work with the community. I met with the Minister, he promised me that but I want to hear it so the people in the community can hear that the Minister is coming and the department is coming to try to make a difference in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I've been up to Paulatuk, I've heard their concerns. The concerns I heard there weren't so much tied to arrears as to the operation of the LHO. I can tell the Member and I think he realizes, that one of our senior management from headquarters has committed to going to Paulatuk and working with the folks up in the Member's riding.

Again, I say, Mr. Speaker, the eviction process, when we get to the eviction process, that's basically the last straw. They've been given every opportunity for time to enter into repayment plans and when we get to this stage that we're at now it's because they haven't honoured the commitments that they've made on three or four occasions. It's unfair to those... We have people that have come forward and made repayment plans, have made bulk payments. They've honoured their commitment, therefore, they continue to stay in their house. But, again, it's a challenge and we'll continue to work with all the communities to see how we can best address this. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is correct about the mess that ECE left this housing situation in. I am blaming... You guys left a big mess. The department can't even find out. People are making payments, or I've got pieces of paper in my office stating that they made a payment and it's not reflecting on their bill. Mr. Speaker, the department obviously with the Minister saying that he did go to the community, yes, he did, but we have to try to work with them, not kick them out. You're not in Yellowknife where if you go outside you're going to be living in a tent. That's not right. You're in a position to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, maybe we should put a motion forward to delete all arrears across the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister willing to work with me in the community to keep the people that are on the eviction list in their houses until we can get this sorted out? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, a motion to delete all arrears across the Northwest Territories is not going to benefit the tenants. Then we just may be putting them in a position where they just accumulate arrears again, and most of all, and most importantly, it would not be fair to those folks across the Northwest Territories that paid their rent faithfully since 1972 and are still living in the same house. It's not fair to them. That's what we want, is to try to treat everybody fairly and equitably.

One of the goals of the 16th Legislative Assembly is safe, sustainable, vibrant, and I'd like to add independent communities. We're trying to foster independence. We're trying to make people accept their responsibility.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it's not our intent to try to and put these people out. They're been given every

opportunity to work out a repayment plan and honour their commitment, and, unfortunately, that hasn't happened so there has been an order for an eviction. Thank you.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Considering housing issues are the number one problem in the territory, will the government commit resources to developing and supporting a regional coalition to assist families so that they do not have to be evicted? In addition, will this government commit to reviewing the way that the Housing Program is currently administered by seeking third-party community-based input from Nunakput? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As part of our Shelter Policy review that we briefed committee on the other day, we had made a commitment to engage all the communities. I actually just had a meeting this morning with staff members and it is their intent to have regional meetings and meet with as many of the leadership in the communities as possible to get their input as to the best way to deliver housing in their communities and what improvements we can make.

We take our work very seriously and we want to make sure that we give everybody an opportunity across the NWT to engage with us so we're not faced with situations like we have today, not only in the Member's riding but we have a few other ridings where arrears are a serious issue. But we also have a number of communities, small communities, where they do an excellent job managing their arrears and making sure that collections are on time and up to date.

We have had situations where the responsibility for the assessment has come back to the Housing Corporation and I have committed to going back, we're working checking back records there to see how much of the arrears were accumulated during the time where ECE was responsible for the assessment. Again, I have committed to getting that work done and reporting back to Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Colleagues, I'd like to remind you of your rules concerning question period and answer period. We're well over halfway through question period and we haven't gotten halfway through the Members yet. So, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 96-16(6):

SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement today about youth at risk, I'd like to ask the Minister of Health

and Social Services does this government have any way of determining what the magnitude of this problem may be in the Northwest Territories. Is there any data on that that would help us develop solutions and response to this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our best information, of course, is for those that are children in care that come under the Child and Family Services Act. The gap between, and I think the Member for Kam Lake acknowledged that and mentioned that gap for those teenagers. Our information is relatively weak. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you. When the Minister spoke the other day, I believe in Committee of the Whole, saying that this government cannot possibly have enough money to address all of the social concerns once they have advanced to the point that trying to achieve and address these solutions is so costly that this government doesn't have enough money for that, and he stressed the importance of working on the front end on preventative measures. Mr. Speaker, I see a lot of opportunity where we as a government could bring programs, services to bear early on when these young people first begin to encounter some of the problems that we see playing themselves out before us today. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services what kind of programs right now currently exist to support parents and youth that are going through these difficult times where the attraction of drugs and alcohol and other things are setting some of our young people on a course of destruction. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. This is a community issue of which there are many roles for people to play, and governments. The role that we play, we have resources on the ground with social workers, with child protection people. We have probation officers, we have teachers, we have nurses, there's some youth centres, there's recreation centres that we have. We work with communities to build their community recreation complexes. For those that need specific counselling, we have access to some psychological, and more difficult, but we have also access to some psychiatric services, though the psychiatric services out of Yellowknife.

So we do have some services across the North in just about every community in one form or to one degree or another. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you. I'd like to ask the Minister if he feels that the seriousness and magnitude of this problem perhaps would be worthy

of a specific dialogue with these organizations and communities that he's referring to. I'm very concerned about this particular age group where it seems like we lose some of our young people where all these things that he's referring to, somehow children, which is what they are, young people, are still falling between the cracks. Does the Minister think that in an attempt to come up with more specific solutions and specific programs that the situation would merit a dialogue on this very particular issue? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member raises a good suggestion and there is and has been over the years and in some communities there is an ongoing interagency type of arrangement where the involved departments and agencies get together to discuss some of the issues where the elected leaders in the community get together as well as part of the process to deal with issues. Usually, unfortunately, sometimes spurred on by a crisis or some tragic event that has happened in the community.

But I agree with the Member that there is a tremendous amount of community resources. It takes something to bring them together to do that type of planning. There's a significant amount of resources, both human and fiscal at the community level, and there's also, with our type of government, an enormous amount of capacity for communities and the regions to be able to design programs that meet their needs with the funds that they have down there. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would very much like to see the safety net around this particular age group strengthened through cooperation between teachers, educators, social workers, families, communities, churches. I would very much like to see this safety net for this age group strengthened, and I would ask the Minister if he would consider a specific dialogue and discussion with people who are in this field going forward and perhaps include it in a transition plan for the 17th Assembly. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. The Member for Hay River South and I have a history going back on this issue, a shared history to a certain extent, going back probably over 20 years on dealing with children in care, teenagers. I would be more than happy to sit down as a good starting point with the chair of the Social Programs and the Social Programs committee. I agree that this could be one issue that's identified in the transition plan that's going to need attention, given the events that are happening around us. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 97-16(6):
REALIGNMENT OF HIGHWAY NO. 4
INGRAHAM TRAIL

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got questions today for the Minister of Transportation getting back to my Member's statement where I was talking about the possible realignment of Highway No. 4, the Ingraham Trail, past the former Giant Mine site.

Back in November of last year the Minister and I had a bit of an exchange on some question about where the government was at with the realignment. Back in November the Minister stated that options would be narrowed down, and engineering and environmental reviews would be done, and that that would be done in short order. That was seven months ago and I'd like to just perhaps start with getting an update from the Minister of Transportation where that realignment sits with his department today. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I have to thank the Member for being patient on this project, something that all of us had to do as we waited for the remediation team to put their plans together.

A lot of that work has been concluded. We've taken the opportunity over the last while to meet with the various organizations, including the remediation team and the Public Works and Government Services Canada to look at the different issues that needed to be addressed. We've also been meeting with the Aboriginal governments in the area, and we now have a schedule, and that schedule involves planned construction for this coming fall. That means there is a lot of work to do.

We want to conclude some of our final discussions on the route, we want to be able to put the business plan together for all the stakeholder requirements and to have construction move forward. The different routes have been narrowed from three down to two, after we had the remediation team reject one of the routes as it wasn't suitable for what they needed. So there is work that is happening. There is a lot of work that needs to be done in the next six months, but we would like to meet the schedule, have the construction start, have a construction period and have the realignment open by the fall or early winter of 2012. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for the update on the realignment, and I guess moving from three options to two in seven months isn't such a bad thing. It's down to two options. Maybe the Minister could let us know what those two options are and whether or not the option

to bypass the mine infrastructure and with the possibility of including a possible expansion at Fred Henne Territorial Park is in the mix in all of these discussions. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I certainly can confirm that option three corridor has been discontinued. It does not meet the needs of what the team requires. We have recognized that this is a remediation project but it's also the Ingraham Trail Realignment Project that has to fit along both the group's needs or both the project needs. We are not looking at this point to deal with any additional camping space for Fred Henne Park. That's not something that's part of this project.

MR. RAMSAY: I think if we're not thinking about possible opportunities from the road realignment that we're missing the boat.

As I mentioned earlier, back in 2003 there were studies, reports on the need for more RV space in Yellowknife for both local residents and the travelling public, the tourists that come north. If we aren't even having the discussion with ITI on the possible expansion at Fred Henne Territorial Park because of a realignment, again, I think we're missing the boat. Is it too late? The question I have for the Minister is: is it too late to not have a look at that possibility?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The Giant Mine Project and the Ingraham Trail Realignment Project are not on the same boat as ITI and Fred Henne Park. Those discussions have been taking place. Right now it would be a different initiative. It would not be part of the dollars earmarked for a realignment that we're looking at.

This is something we need to confirm as to what route we're going to use. Right now we are looking at two possible routes. We'd like to narrow that down to one within the next little while, within the next month or so. A park is not part of that.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government will be paying the lion's share of the capital costs to realign the Ingraham Trail. As I mentioned earlier, if we are not looking at every possible opportunity to advance the interests -- and in this case it would be another department, it would be ITI, it would be Tourism that would be expanding Fred Henne Territorial Park -- again, we are missing the boat. I didn't quite hear the Minister say it's too late, but why is it too late? Why aren't we looking at that possibility? I think it's a real possibility, given some of the maps I saw three years ago when this was first brought up; almost four years ago.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The realignment will be funded by the Federal Remediation Team and from the GNWT Giant Mine Liability Account. There

is no avenue to tie in a park with those types of resources. There has been discussion with ITI. I believe the department was not able to come up with the capital dollars for any type of camping services or camping facilities along this road. They may be able to do that at a later date; however, at this point we have not made any allowance for camping as part of this.

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

QUESTION 98-16(6):

DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Premier and are in regard to my Member's statement. It's a crying shame that in this day and age we can't sit down with our Aboriginal partners and come to an arrangement on the devolution talks. As I mentioned, this was an issue during the federal election and I believe it will be an issue during the territorial election. The Aboriginal assembly is coming up this summer. I'd like to ask the Premier if it's possible to look at some mechanisms we can use to try to bring the parties to the table and try to find a mediation or mitigation to resolve this issue. Either go through arbitration or mediation to resolve this issue. My question is: what is the Premier doing to advance talks on devolution with the Gwich'in and other Dene governments, and trying to find a solution to our bypass?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working to continue to try to improve the outlook as to Aboriginal participation in the agreement-in-principle stage. Since signing the agreement, we have corresponded with all of the leaders to have them come back to the table. I have also corresponded with them in that same communication about going into their region and communities to go over the agreement-in-principle, much like we did up in the Sahtu when we met with the community representatives of Deline, Tulita and Norman Wells. We're awaiting the next response as to another meeting. I've just received correspondence from the Akaitcho that they would like me to be at their Assembly this summer to discuss a number of items. I hope at that point we'll be able to address the issue of the agreement-in-principle.

The door is open. We have communicated. It's pretty hard to have additional communications if there's no response to that offer of meetings. We continue to have it out there. We continue to be open to requests to come into communities to go over that. One of the things we're doing over and above that is the letter that will be going out soon

on the work plan and inform all the groups of where we're at, at that stage.

MR. KRUTKO: One of the issues that the Dene leadership have issue with is why does the federal government still retain one-third of the Norman Wells oilfield in which the Dene-Metis claim clearly identifies the Norman Wells Proven Area as their land claim package.

The other area of contention is this 5 percent cap that's in place. I'd like to ask the Premier what areas the government is willing to push to improve the devolution package that would satisfy the concerns of the Dene governments.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: On a couple of items that the Member has mentioned, he would be familiar since he was one of the negotiators both at the Gwich'in table and the Sahtu table that looked at that one-third ownership of the federal government in the Norman Wells oilfield. In fact, it was the Sahtu that agreed with an out-of-court settlement on that one-third ownership that has sort of set the stage for us.

We have continued, even in the initial discussions around Norman Wells, that that should be a part of the package. We continue to push that forward and would do so during the negotiations phase.

As for the 5 percent cap, let's be really clear here, the 5 percent cap is not a piece of the agreement-in-principle. In fact, the 5 percent cap is involved in the formula financing big picture. All jurisdictions face some form of a cap.

The three territories are treated somewhat differently in trying to mirror the cap on equalization. That formula financing agreement is up for renewal every five years and we continue to address that through those discussions.

MR. KRUTKO: My question is: what will the Premier do to ensure that the government meets the obligations as set out in land claim agreements and ongoing negotiations on devolution?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Right from the earliest days of the first discussions between the Government of the Northwest Territories, the federal government and Aboriginal parties that established working relationships through the Aboriginal Summit and through the Intergovernmental Working Forum, through providing resources and dollars and people to help repair, in fact, I would say the agreement-in-principle is an example of those type of resources. That document was improved by Section 6 of the agreement that would put a government-to-government relationship and how we work together going forward in these matters. The language throughout the agreement talks about protecting the rights that are already established, that this agreement cannot take away from that.

We recognize that in a number of these areas in the claims there needs to be discussions. We're open, we've offered, and we've asked them to be a part of the working groups and negotiations as we go forward. We cannot make them come to the table. Their choice. In fact, when you look at the signatories, it was at those tables that it was felt that the Aboriginal groups wanted a different process of signing the agreement and not to be as it came forward between the GNWT and the federal government. That was accepted and has gone forward on that basis. That's also why we've included the additional process of having the parties come to the table throughout this process. It wasn't a matter of you have to sign it to start it and you're always out. The fact is, the door is open to come to the table.

I hope when we send out the correspondence on the work plan and they see the work being done, that will encourage them to come to the table and influence those discussions.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the last point that the Premier mentioned, the work plan, apparently you have only two Aboriginal groups developing a work plan, which you have six groups outside the table who have to follow a work plan developed by two groups that are going to have an impact on their region. I would like to ask the Premier how you explain the lack of Dene participation in the Devolution Agreement to the other parties and to other Canadians.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: The process we have used has been open. It has been inviting to ask the groups to be a part of this. The two groups that are involved in this have signed the agreement-in-principle, and by signing that agreement-in-principle have taken their spot at the table. The table and chairs are waiting for the other groups to sign up to come in and affect those discussions.

Again, the door is open, the invite is there, and resources would be made available. In fact, this Assembly discussed the resources we require within Executive to help them in preparations for negotiations. So we've made offers, both formal in the sense of being at the table and resources that would help them in preparations for negotiations.

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

QUESTION 99-16(6):

DUST CONTROL IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the issue of dust in the communities of Tu Nedhe. I'm going to ask the Minister of MACA some questions on that. Does

the Minister of MACA have data or information on the hazards of breathing in dust?

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. No, I don't have that data but I'll try and gather it and have a look at it.

MR. BEAULIEU: I can say that there are a lot of hazards to breathing in dust. I'll just ask the Minister another question in relation to the dust. Will the Minister of MACA direct his staff to engage the Community of Lutselk'e in developing the project to apply dust suppression on the roads within the community?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: With the community's invitation, we'd be glad to go in there and provide them with some technical advice and assist them in seeing how they can best budget their money for applying dust suppressant.

MR. BEAULIEU: Seeing that the Department of Transportation, I believe, has probably the greatest amount of expertise in this area, would the Minister ask for DOT, technical support in determining exactly what is needed to complete a dust suppression project in Lutselk'e?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We'd be glad to have discussions with DOT and take advantage of the expertise that they have. Along with MACA, we'll work with the communities and see how they can best apply it to their roads.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will MACA staff play a lead role in completing the dust suppression project in Lutselk'e?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We'll play a secondary role and the Community of Lutselk'e will play the lead role as they have the funding to allocate to applying dust suppressant to their road. We'll be more than happy to work with the community and identify the best ways possible to make sure they get their roads done.

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

QUESTION 100-16(6):

SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT IN 2011

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister of Human Resources questions on the Member's statement I spoke about earlier in the day. The question was raised in the House last week, Mr. Speaker, and I'd just like a current update about the number of summer students hired to date as compared to last year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories has a commitment to building a strong northern workforce and also fulfilling its strategy to maximize northern employment. As such, we have summer student hiring as an important priority. On average over the past eight years we've hired about 315 summer students. Last year we hired 263 students. This year we're hoping to meet our objective of 263. To date we've hired 82 summer students and have 42 job offers out there for a total of 124. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: As I indicated in my Member's statement, I had four anxious young students from the riding of Nahendeh inquiring to my office about them not hearing anything from the department or any opportunities yet. What would be causing delays such as that, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Normally what is causing the delays is summer students not registered with the program, so that results in a delay. Having said that, the demand exceeds the supply. Usually we have 600 students apply for summer employment and, like I say, our objective this year is to try to match last year's number of 268. So we're having situations where we're having to interview summer students for jobs and so on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for question period is expired; however, I will allow the Member a supplementary question. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm just concerned about our government using the passive restraint measures in each of the departments. Would such measures or the concept actually impact the amount of summer students and the goal that we're trying to reach? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Obviously, the departments are the ones that find the funding for hiring the summer students and if you go back to 2008, we had 353 summer students. Since that time we've had a recession and we've had fiscal issues, so obviously that has implications. We've tried to address it by having departments hiring but also providing funds so that the private sector can be assisted in hiring summer students, as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister provide me with some details of an average of summer student hires in Fort Simpson and, as well, at Fort Liard? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We'll provide that information to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Bisaro

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 7 on the Order Paper.

---Unanimous consent granted

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

Oral Questions (Reversion)

QUESTION 101-16(6): MULTI-YEAR FUNDING FOR NGOS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement spoke to multi-year funding for NGOs and the need for this government to go in that direction and to enter into multi-year funding agreements with our NGO partners. I mentioned that I had discovered that some organizations are funded for five-year agreements. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the Executive why we can do that for some organizations but we can't do that for our NGO partners. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a number of layers of agreements that are put in place and there are a number of multi-year agreements in place. It is department by department. The issue becomes, one, if a program is under review, then there's a hesitancy to get into multi-year agreements. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that response. I guess I would have to wonder why the Minister would say a program is under review when we've had the Seniors' Society required to do a single-year agreement since 1999 for the same program. It seems like it's not under review for 16 years.

The Program Manager's Guide for NGOs has been developed and distributed and I'd like to commend the departments of the Executive and Finance for doing that. One of the suggestions in that document, and I think it's an extremely good one, is to have one program manager for each NGO that would deal with all the contracts and all the agreements that an NGO has, whether it be one or four.

I'd like to ask the Minister when we might be able to see some progress in that direction, one program manager for each NGO. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: In the recommendations that have been laid out, that would have to occur within the life of the next government as our processes and budget have been passed. Changes in that pattern and the way of doing business would need to be carried on through the transition work. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: One of the other things that I spoke about in my statement was the need to provide for increases to funding to our NGO partners that takes care of cost of living increases. Again, one of the NGOs has not had an increase to the... The Seniors' Society hasn't had any increase in the funding for the 1-800 line in 16 years. I'd like to know what policy exists to provide for cost of living increases for contributions that we make to our NGO partners for programs.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: We started our work early in the life of this Assembly with issues around stabilizing funds to NGOs and we categorized a number of groups that would fit into core programs that we deliver, that made sense as to looking at some growth in expenditures in those areas, and some adjustments were made. As we review the work that's done in our contracts, some of the things we have to look at is the use of those programs and increase in forced growth as we would categorize it is how that might fit into our business planning cycle. It is, in a sense, by department and by area of responsibility and demand for programs. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Minister. I guess the issue for forced growth is exactly where I'm going, and there is no opportunity for forced growth increases in the contribution agreements that NGOs have to deal with. I've totally lost my thought... You stressed me out, Mr. Minister. I'll go to my other question.

One of the things that's in the new Program Manager's Guide is a statement that if the government requires an audit, the government will pay for it. That hasn't been past practice. I'd like to ask the Minister when that will change. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I must say that it's rare that a Minister has a chance and an opportunity to stump a Member...(inaudible)...questions. Maybe it's just the seniors' questions about funding that we all face on a day-to-day basis.

The issue of funding and the forced growth nature is, as I was saying, some of the earlier work we did in the 16th Assembly as Members raised the issue around funding stabilization and previous Assemblies, was the third-party accountability framework that we worked on to identify areas of accountability and dealing with some of those forced-growth pressures. In some categories there

was agreement for changes and others did not fit based on that work. We use that work to establish how departments would work with NGOs and how funding could be looked at. Again, not all parties were able to qualify in that area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 5-16(6): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to provide its Report on the Review of the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and commends it to the House.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Government Operations reviewed the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner at its meeting on May 16, 2011. The committee would like to thank Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts for her report and for her appearance before the committee.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly. Her primary role is to review and make recommendations on public bodies' decisions related to the Northwest Territories Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the ATIPP Act). The ATIPP Act requires that public bodies demonstrate their accountability by making information accessible to the public while at the same time protecting the privacy of individuals.

The committee is pleased to bring forward the following recommendations that were raised by the IPC in her annual report.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'll pass the floor to my colleague Mrs. Groenewegen for continuation of reading of the report. Mahsi cho.

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

Recommendations

Comprehensive Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As in her 2008-2009 report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended a comprehensive review of the ATIPP Act. The act was passed in 1994, long before e-mail, smartphones and flash drives were an everyday part of government business. As well, the IPC and standing committees have made a number of recommendations over the years for amendments to the act that have not yet been addressed by government. For example, a recommendation repeated in the current report is for the inclusion of a provision to give the IPC the discretion to expand the limitation period for seeking a review to an access to information request. This recommendation was adopted by the committee in its report on the IPC's 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 annual reports. In its February 2010 response to this committee report, the GNWT indicated that the Department of Justice would review the time frames involved. To the committee's knowledge, this review has never taken place. Another example is the longstanding recommendation for municipal access to information and protection of privacy legislation.

The committee agrees that it is time for a complete review of the act, which will provide an opportunity to reconsider all of the IPC's previous recommendations, recently amended access to information and privacy legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions, and changes in information and communications technology. A review at this time will also help to inform the health privacy legislation that is currently under development to ensure that it is as up to date as possible.

As the committee will be supporting a formal motion for a comprehensive review of the act, a specific recommendation is not included in this report.

Review of the Fee Schedule

The ATIPP Act allows public bodies to charge fees for providing access to records. The IPC's report details a complaint made to her office in which a public body assessed a "wildly overestimated" fee of \$7,500 for providing information. This issue brought to the IPC's attention problems with the way some of the line items in the fee schedule are worded, which make interpretation difficult. Further, in the IPC's opinion, the public body in this case "used the fee provisions in a clear attempt to limit the right of an individual to challenge the policies of the public body."

The committee agrees with the IPC that "the fee provisions should never create a situation in which it is financially impossible for the public to gain access to public records," and supports her

recommendation for a review of the fee schedule, and in particular the wording of the line items for which fees may be charged.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories review the fee schedule to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act to ensure that it is clearly worded and does not place an undue cost on persons requesting access to information.

Disclosure of Salaries and Bonuses Paid to Senior Employees of Public Bodies

Further to two complaints where access to information about the salaries and bonuses paid to senior employees of public bodies was denied, the IPC recommends a requirement for public bodies to proactively disclose bonuses paid to their employees, within a \$1,000 range. She further recommends that consideration be given to legislation for proactive disclosure of salaries paid to senior employees of public bodies. As outlined in the IPC's report, such disclosure would be consistent with practices in other Canadian jurisdictions.

The committee agrees with the IPC that the public is at least entitled to know what senior employees are being paid in bonuses, even if the amounts are given as a range.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories institute requirements for proactive disclosure of employee bonuses and the salaries of senior employees, or bring forward legislation to this effect if legislation is necessary.

I'll now turn the floor back over to the committee chair, Mr. Menicoche.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Mrs. Groenewegen for reading the report.

Conclusion

The committee commends the continuing efforts of Ms. Keenan Bengts to promote and improve access to information and protection of privacy in the Northwest Territories, and looks forward to her 2010-2011 annual report.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Report on the Review of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on the Review of the 2009-2010 Annual

Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

MOTION TO RECEIVE
COMMITTEE REPORT 5-16(6)
AND MOVE INTO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
CARRIED

Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Committee Report 5-16(6) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

---Carried

Committee Report 5-16(6) will be moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 27-16(6):
NWT WATER STEWARDSHIP:
A PLAN FOR ACTION 2011-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document titled Northwest Territories Water Stewardship: A Plan for Action 2011-2015.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 28-16(6):
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS 2009-2010,
SECTION I AND II

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document titled Public Accounts 2009-2010. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 29-16(6):
BDIC CORPORATE PLAN 2011-2012

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document titled Business People Working for Other Business People, Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Corporate Plan 2011-2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 6-16(6):
INCREASE TO STUDENT FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE LIVING ALLOWANCES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice on Thursday, May 19, 2011, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment increases the living allowances set out in Schedule B of the Regulations to the Student Financial Assistance Act by 27 percent.

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

MOTION 7-16(6):
NWT ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 19, 2011, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the Legislative Assembly resolves to formally observe June 12 to 18, 2011, as NWT Elder Abuse Awareness Week.

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

MOTION 8-16(6):
REVIEW OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION
AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, May 19, 2011, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories undertake a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, including an examination of access to information and privacy legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions and all past recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and bring forward a bill during the first two years of the 17th Assembly;

And further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories include mention of a need for a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act in any transition document or report to the 17th Assembly;

And furthermore, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive

response to this motion within 90 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MOTION 9-16(6):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO AUGUST 17, 2011

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 19, 2011, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, May 19, 2011, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, August 17, 2011;

And further, that any time prior to August 17, 2011, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Second Reading of Bills

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Deh Cho Bridge Act to:

- remove references to the Deh Cho Bridge Fund;
- extend to the registered owner of a vehicle the obligation to pay or arrange to pay a toll for the vehicle to be operated on the Deh Cho Bridge; and
- authorize the making of regulations respecting the use of transponders and other devices for purposes of enforcing the collection of tolls.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 15 has had second reading.

---Carried

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

BILL 16:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill includes amendments that make the use of a restricted electronic device while operating a motor vehicle an offence, unless it is designated as a hands-free device and used in a hands-free manner. Restricted electronic devices are to be prescribed along with who may use them. Certain classes of drivers are exempt or may be exempted under the regulations. The holders of learner's and probationary driver's licences may be further restricted or prohibited from the use of these devices by regulation.

The threshold for reporting accidents is raised from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

The registrar of motor vehicles is also given powers to refuse a certificate of registration, permit or driver's licence or to cancel a licence for non-payment of fines pertaining to motor vehicle offences under the Deh Cho Bridge Act or Summary Conviction Procedures Act.

Minor amendments are also made to ensure consistency of terminology, improve clarity of expression, and confirm with prevailing drafting practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 16 has had second 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: 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Territorial Parks Act to authorize the superintendent to prohibit a person who has been charged with certain offences or has unpaid fines under the act from entering certain territorial parks. Amendments will also authorize the court to impose an order prohibiting a person convicted of certain offences under the act from entering territorial parks.

The bill also amends the act to authorize the making of regulations respecting the process for issuing and appealing orders prohibiting a person

from entering or being in a territorial park, respecting temporary prohibitions or restrictions on the possession of alcohol in territorial parks, respecting restrictions on possession of animals in territorial parks, and respecting the operation of motor vehicles or certain types of motor vehicles in territorial parks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 17 has had second 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: 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Utilities Act is amended to permit the Minister to request that the Public Utilities Board advise the Minister on matters he or she may specify, and to provide that the Executive Council may issue directives to the board respecting policies to be applied by the board in the determination of its orders, decisions and rules.

The act is further amended to authorize the making of regulations governing the information to be submitted in or with a schedule of rates filed with the board by a public utility.

Finally, a number of provisions are amended to make minor changes to improve the clarity of expression or to conform with prevailing drafting practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 18 has had second reading.

---Carried

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

BILL 19:
COST OF CREDIT DISCLOSURE ACT

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes rules for the disclosure of cost of credit information by credit grantors to consumers. It also repeals Parts I and II of the Consumer Protection Act and makes other consequential amendments to that act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 19 has had second reading.

---Carried

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other matters: 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; and 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): Greetings, committee. We have before us today Bill 11 and Committee Reports 1-16(6), 2-16(6), 3-16(6) and 4-16(6). What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to deal with Bill 11 and all four committee reports today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Very good. We'll take a short break first.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Before us we have Bill 11, committee, and I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he has any comments. Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, Minister Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I do, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Please proceed.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Public Service Act currently allows for the appointment of three staffing review officers from outside of the public service to hear appeals of appointments made by competition. Staffing review officers provide an independent review of the competition process by determining whether procedural fairness occurred in the application of applicable legislation, regulations, policies, directives and procedural guidelines.

Under policy and regulation, staffing appeals have time limits for a response. Delays can prolong competitions in hiring of qualified candidates, which can result in interruption of government programs and services to Northwest Territories residents. An

increase in the number of staffing review officers is intended to improve appeal and competition time frames.

Work undertaken by the Department of Human Resources on the strategic goal one, Fixing the Foundation, of 20/20, A Brilliant North, Northwest Territories Public Service Strategic Plan, identified delays in completion of staffing competitions due to the amount of time required to complete the staffing appeal hearing. Three staffing review officers are no longer adequate to hear staffing appeals within appropriate time frames.

The proposed amendment will enable more staffing review officers to be available to hear appeals. There will be no increase in costs and this will have no impact on the number of appeals received or number of appellants involved. An increase in the number of staffing review officers available to hear appeals is simply intended to improve appeal and competition time frames. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Given that this bill was referred directly to Committee of the Whole and there are no remarks from standing committee, I think we'll proceed onwards here. So would you like to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes I would, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): I will now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses into the House.

Thank you, Sergeant. I'd like to ask the Minister to please introduce your witnesses.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me I have Tom Williams, the deputy minister of Human Resources, on my left; and to my right, Mark Aitken, the director of legislation with the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister. Welcome, witnesses. I will now proceed and ask for general comments on Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. General comments? Hearing none, does committee agree we go to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. We'll start on page 1, clause 1.

---Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive approved

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Is committee agreed that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the

Public Service Act, is ready for third reading? Agreed?

---Bill 11 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act is now ready for third reading. I'd like to thank the witnesses and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Thank you, committee.

We'll now move on to consideration of Committee Report 1-16(6), which was read into the record on May 12, 2011. Are there any general comments on Committee Report 1-16(6), Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on Northwest Territories Deh Cho Bridge Project, 2011, Department of Transportation. General comments? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I jumped the gun there. I've got no comments and I'll be moving a motion to this report. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. So, committee, no general comments? I'm not hearing any general comments, in which case we will move to recommendations in the form of motions. Committee, any motions on Committee Report 1-16(6), Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the Northwest Territories Deh Cho Bridge Project? Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 4-16(6):
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP POLICY,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the GNWT finalize a public/private partnership policy; and further, that this policy includes provisions to ensure that the GNWT undertakes an analysis of its full financial exposure, the roles and responsibilities of the GNWT and its partners are clearly defined, due diligence is carried out on the partner's capacity to fulfill its roles and obligations, risk and opportunities are proportionately shared, and the GNWT establishes a clear understanding of a community's objectives and abilities when entering a partnership with the community; and furthermore, that the Cabinet provide a timeline for the finalization of the public/private partnership policy within the life of the 16th Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question is being called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 5-16(6):
INSTALLATION OF A CATWALK
AND OPTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE
AND INSPECTION,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Chair, I move that this committee recommend that the Department of Transportation thoroughly investigate the necessity and practicality of installing a catwalk and report back to Members with other options for maintenance and inspection duly compared within the scope of the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question is being called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoché.

COMMITTEE MOTION 6-16(6):
CERTIFICATION OF DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION OF DEH CHO BRIDGE,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that before the Deh Cho Bridge opens to traffic, the Department of Transportation ensure that a qualified authority certifies that the design and construction of the Deh Cho Bridge meet the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question is being called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoché.

COMMITTEE MOTION 7-16(6):
PROGRESS UPDATES AND TIMELINE AND
TOTAL COST FOR BRIDGE COMPLETION,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the department keep all Members of the Legislative Assembly fully apprised of progress on the bridge and cost implications and provide regular updates to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure; and further, that these updates include details specifically related to project risks, schedule and toll collection and establishing an engineer record; and furthermore, that the department provide Members with a

timeline and the total costs for completion of the Deh Cho Bridge Project at the earliest possible date. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question is being called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoché.

COMMITTEE MOTION 8-16(6):
REPORTING ON PROJECT COSTS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the department provide an all in, total cost for the project when it is complete that clearly identifies internal costs to the Legislative Assembly and the public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question is being called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoché.

COMMITTEE MOTION 9-16(6):
ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
AUDITOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Transportation provide and make public a detailed action plan to implement the recommendations contained in the Auditor General's report on the Deh Cho Bridge Project within 90 days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question is being called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoché.

COMMITTEE MOTION 10-16(6):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE
WITHIN 90 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the

Government of the Northwest Territories provides a comprehensive response to this report within 90 days.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

Seeing no further motions, does committee agree that this concludes our business on 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, Department of Transportation?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. We'll move on to 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, Department of Health and Social Services. We will go into general comments. Seeing no general comments, does committee agree that we go to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): We will move on to recommendations in the form of motions. Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 11-16(6):
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WITH TIMELINE
AND QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATES,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories develops a plan for implementing all the Auditor General's recommendations on health programs and services, and provides it to Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public; and further, that the implementation plan include a timeline and quarterly progress updates to the Standing Committee on Social Programs beginning in June 2011.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 12-16(6):
FUNDING ALLOCATION
MODEL AND PERFORMANCE,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services follows through on commitments made in its strategic plan and action plan to revise the model to allocate funding to health and social services authorities, develop performance agreements that include expected results for key programs and services, and corresponding reporting requirements.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 13-16(6):
COMPREHENSIVE RECRUITMENT AND
RETENTION PLAN FOR
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services, health authorities, and the Department of Human Resources develop a comprehensive system-wide recruitment and retention plan for health professionals for implementation in 2012-2013 and that they monitor progress against the plan on an ongoing basis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 14-16(6):
DHSS AND HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICE
LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT AND
RETENTION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services, health authorities, and the Department of Human Resources develop a service level agreement for recruitment and retention of health professionals that sets out roles, responsibilities, timelines and

services to be delivered; and further, that this agreement be in place and functional by April 1, 2012.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 15-16(6):
PERFORMANCE AND PROGRAM
EVALUATION OF NWT HEALTH,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services and the health authorities develop a set of system-wide performance indicators and identify key data requirements, develop a program evaluation plan setting out areas they plan to evaluate, and regularly inform the Legislative Assembly and the public about the performance of the NWT health care system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

Seeing no further motions... Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 16-16(6):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE
WITHIN 90 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides a comprehensive response to this report within 90 days.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

Seeing no further motions on this Committee Report 2-16(6), does committee agree that we've concluded our business on the Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Auditor General's Report on NWT Health

Programs and Services, 2011, Department of Health and Social Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. We'll move on to Committee Report 3-16(6), read into the House on May 12th, Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2009-2010 Human Rights Commission Annual Report. Start with general comments. We'll move on to recommendations in the form of motions. Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 17-16(6):
REVIEW OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON
UNRELATED CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS
OR RECORD,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice review and assess the advisability of prohibiting discrimination based on unrelated criminal convictions or criminal records.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that in 2005 the Human Rights Commission recommended the inclusion of unrelated criminal records as protected grounds for discrimination for employment. I also understand that it wasn't supported at that time because there was a concern about increased litigation, that it could increase litigation substantially as the definition for "unrelated" was felt to be too broad and subjective.

I feel that was the wrong thing to do at the time. There are three other jurisdictions that offer such protection: Quebec, British Columbia and the Yukon. All three jurisdictions report very few, around 1 percent of all complaints, on these grounds were lodged. So there is no floodgate. There is no substantially increased litigation. There are plenty of court decisions, including decisions from courts of appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, which provide ample guidance for discerning an objective definition. As a common-law jurisdiction it's expected that courts build on previous decisions to breathe new meaning into the law. The cost of litigation would not increase substantially. This is evidenced by the very small proportion of complaints filed under this ground and other jurisdictions. The most costly area of human rights litigation is disability and accommodation issues, not unrelated criminal records.

There are two categories for the grounds of protection under our human rights legislation and they are immutable grounds, which are basically personal traits which cannot be changed or can be changed at any great personal cost. Things like

race, religion, sex and sexual orientation. There are also non-immutable grounds: personal characteristics which are generally irrelevant to one's ability to work or contract but may subject individuals to stigma or hostility. These are things like political opinion or affiliation, union membership, social condition, immigration status, source of income, and unrelated criminal records.

Things that I think we should be considering and the government should be considering when we're talking about this motion, is that criminal record holders in the Northwest Territories are, unfortunately, overwhelmingly of Aboriginal descent. Discrimination on the basis of an unrelated criminal record could compound discrimination already faced by individuals in the Northwest Territories, especially marginalizing the individuals. This is a fundamental underpinning of human rights legislation, that qualified persons should not be refused employment on irrelevant traits.

We're talking about unrelated criminal records here and I think this is an important motion for us to pass and I think it's an important action that this government needs to take and amend human rights legislation accordingly so that we can protect our residents.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 18-16(6):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED AS AMENDED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

COMMITTEE MOTION TO AMEND
COMMITTEE MOTION 18-16(6),
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE
WITHIN 90 DAYS,
CARRIED

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Committee Motion 18-16(6) be amended by deleting the number "120" and substituting the number "90."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion to amend is on the floor and in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

The amended motion is in order. To the amended motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

I believe once again that completes our business. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion to report progress is on the floor and in order. It is not debatable.

---Defeated

Committee, may I just confirm that our business has concluded on Committee Report 3-16(6), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2009-2010 Human Rights Commission Annual Report.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Does committee agree that we'll move on to Committee Report 4-16(6)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): In that case, we have before us Committee Report 4-16(6), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the NWT Languages Commissioner Annual Report 2009-2010. Open for general comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Detail has been called. We'll do that in the form of recommendations through motions. We have none. Any further comments on Committee Report 4-16(6)? Does committee agree that we've concluded our business in Committee of the Whole on Committee Report 4-16(6)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Mahsi cho. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now move that we report progress.

---Carried

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

Report of 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 Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act; Committee Report 1-16(6), Report on the Review of the Auditor General's Report on the Deh Cho Bridge; Committee Report 2-16(6), Report on the Review of the Auditor General's Report on Health and Social Services System; Committee Report 3-16(6), Report on the Review of the Human Rights Commission Annual Report; and Committee Report 4-16(6), Report on the Review of the Languages Commissioner's Annual Report, and would like to report progress and that 15 motions were adopted, are concluded, and that Bill 11 is ready for third reading. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Mahsi.

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

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 3: ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 3, Electronic Transactions Act, be read for the third time. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 3 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

BILL 4: MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 2011

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 4, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 4 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance.

BILL 5:

WRITE-OFF OF DEBTS ACT, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 5, Write-off of Debts Act, 2010-2011, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 5 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance.

BILL 6:

FORGIVENESS OF DEBTS ACT, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 6, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010-2011, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 6 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Board of Management at the rise of the House today.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 18, 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
 - Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act
19. Second Reading of Bills

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

