



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, August 18, 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. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:37 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

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

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 37-16(6):
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES PLANNING

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment's official languages division has been hard at work on three important projects: the Aboriginal Languages Plan, the Aboriginal Languages Summer Institute, and the Strategic Plan on French Language.

In October 2010, the Government of the Northwest Territories tabled its strategic document, "Northwest Territories Aboriginal Languages Plan – A Shared Responsibility."

The plan outlines how the government, non-government organizations, and Northerners will work together to strengthen Aboriginal language use. In addition, it includes the views of Aboriginal language communities regarding specific actions required to address the particular characteristics with their specific language group.

The plan is framed over a 10-year period. It is intended to help guide decisions related to policy, priorities, and support for Aboriginal languages. The plan will also help guide the language communities with their specific activities and direction.

A number of actions identified in the plan are already underway. Some of these include: funding language "tool kits" development or identified learning materials; analyzing and evaluating current language funding distribution methodology; initiating a feasibility study to establish an Aboriginal Languages Secretariat; and publishing the annual report on Aboriginal language activities across the NWT.

Further to this plan, Mr. Speaker, the Aboriginal Languages Summer Institute recently completed its second year of courses. The pilot language institute

enables participants to enhance their current language skills and enhance their capacity to plan and develop language preservation and revitalization, strategies, programs, and resource materials.

The 2011 language institute was held from July 11 to 23 in Yellowknife at the Aurora College facility. All 20 participants, representing official Aboriginal languages, successfully completed the courses. There are further discussions with the University of Victoria to deliver another two-week course later this year. It is hoped to deliver programs through the language institute as a regular language revitalization program.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories drafted a Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services to improve communications and services delivery to the public in French across the government. Representation of the Federation Franco-TeNOise are discussing the draft plan and we anticipate completion in the coming months.

The plan outlines three broad frameworks for implementation: legislative and regulatory, administrative and operational. It also includes establishing a Francophone Affairs Secretariat.

The Francophone Affairs Secretariat is a central support agency to deliver French language communications and services by government departments, boards, and agencies. The secretariat also coordinates government-wide provision of French translation services and manages Services TNO, the government's single-window for French language services.

The operation of the secretariat will start this fall. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 38-16(6):
2011 WESTERN CANADA SUMMER GAMES

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with an update on the Northwest Territories Team that attended the 2011 Western Canada Summer

Games that were hosted by the City of Kamloops, British Columbia, from August 5th to August 14th.

The Western Canada Summer Games were created in 1975 to provide western and northern athletes an opportunity to compete at a higher performance level and learn more about this great country.

Nearly 2,300 athletes representing the four western provinces and three territories took part in the Kamloops Games. Team NWT included 140 athletes, coaches, and managers from eight sports and representing 10 communities.

Mr. Speaker, all of the athletes performed extremely well and did us proud. I am pleased to congratulate Alea Stockton and Julianna Neudorf for their silver and bronze medals respectively in the women's five-kilometre walk, and to the team of Joseph Lirette, Madison Hurst, Mason Hachey, and Christopher Lirette for their bronze medal in the 100-metre relay. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of our athletes for their hard work and dedication.

A special mention goes to the Team NWT volunteers and officials who managed the team, and to the territorial sport organizations for working so hard to support their athletes. They demonstrated a willingness to go that extra distance to provide the athletes with the best experience possible. It is through the combined effort of volunteer organizers, the coaches and managers, the officials and the staff that make the athletes success possible.

A special note of recognition is required for Mr. Bill Othmer from Sport North, who served as our chef de mission for Team NWT. Congratulations to Mr. Othmer and all his mission staff on a job well done.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the host society from the City of Kamloops, British Columbia. This organization did a wonderful job of hosting the games and made the team welcome in their community. We trust that the next host, the Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Alberta, will continue the tradition of hosting an excellent sporting event.

Finally, I would like to make special mention to all the parents who support their children in their athletic pursuits. Their dedication of time and financial support to the development of our youth is so important, and is evident through the number of youth who were able to attend these games in person.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to build our future by promoting healthy and active living among children and youth. Improving the physical and mental well-being of our youth will create healthy, educated Northerners as envisioned in the 16th Assembly's vision of Northerners Working Together.

Mr. Speaker, we have much to be proud of in our sport and recreation system, and on behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, I congratulate all those who took part in the 2011 Western Canada Summer Games. Thank you.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC HOUSING RENT SCALE

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.] Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about the NWT Housing Corporation and how it must change its policies to allow them to address the issue of the public housing rent scale and the issue of providing support for homeowners in small, rural and remote communities.

Mr. Speaker, many times over the past four years the Legislative Assembly has passed motions asking the Housing Corporation to change the rent scale in order to improve incentive for people that want to work in the smaller communities.

In addition, I have made many requests asking the Housing Corporation to develop policies to support the development of a housing market in rural and remote communities to prevent home ownership units from dilapidating to a point where the houses are falling beyond economical repair.

Along with the high cost of rent in small communities for families that go to work and have children out of school, the monthly expenses for maintaining a household along with daycare costs easily add up, and the deductions made from your gross pay of a person's income. At the end of the day there is very little incentive for a person to work in the small communities where there is no private market to ease you into homeownership.

The NWT Housing Corporation has been asked many times to change its current policies. When is that policy going to change? Will the NWT Housing Corporation continue to work on this policy change into the next Assembly and ensure that those changes are made? Will these items be an essential part of the transition document for the NWT Housing Corporation?

Many MLAs have complained to the Minister about housing, about the various issues their constituents are facing when they're dealing with housing. I am making my 30th Member's statement today on housing, and yet I have not seen changes in the policy that will allow people in public housing to go to work and retain some of their income for themselves, thus providing incentive to work. I have not seen people in homeownership get their units

repaired or renovated so they can live in comfort in their homes and their homes are now deteriorating beyond a point where they are frustrated and don't know where to turn.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BEAULIEU: As MLAs, we have the power of suggestion for the government, however, our suggestions are supported by the people that have elected us. Our suggestions must be taken seriously; they cannot be ignored.

Today I will have questions for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation on the policies that are affecting the people in Tu Nedhe.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FEDERAL FOOD MAIL PROGRAM

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Changes to the federal Food Mail Program, now known as Nutrition North Canada, are disastrous. It's actually increasing the cost of foods for the residents in our smaller communities. This is a huge problem that requires immediate action. Instead of ensuring flat shipping rates for northern orders of nutritious food, the federal government is subsidizing freight costs for northern retailers. Basically that's the Northern Stores and Co-op stores. In theory, it should work if the freight subsidy is fully passed on to the customers. That doesn't seem to be happening.

My constituents are sending me cost comparisons. They are showing me the numbers that they pay when they're able to order groceries directly from Yellowknife versus what they're paying at the community stores. The costs of things like milk, apples, eggs, and cheese have almost doubled. My constituents are asking me, why should oranges cost \$3 a kilogram in Yellowknife and more than \$8 a kilogram in Tulita. That's even after the freight subsidy of \$2 per kilogram.

The federal freight subsidy is not benefitting the consumers. Stores in Yellowknife are no longer taking part in this program because the federal government reporting requirements are too complicated and take too much time. This especially hurts people in the Norman Wells area. This subsidy has actually reduced competition, what little competition there is in our smaller communities.

I know this program is a federal responsibility, but our government shares the pain when our people cannot afford to eat a balanced, nutritious diet. We have to do something about this immediately.

Northern retailers are not happy with the Nutritious North Program. Consumers and my people are not happy with it. The Nutritious North Program needs to be revised, and this government should start applying some serious pressure to make this happen. Maybe the Premier should have a few words with Mr. Harper.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NATURAL GAS CONVERSION IN COMMUNITIES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Natural gas as a community energy supply has gained attention lately and there's a consideration being given to expanding that use in communities. Let's examine some related issues and consider the wisdom of our long-term approach.

The situation in Norman Wells is well known. Huge costs are being faced as the local gas supply ends and the town struggles to find a cost-effective replacement. In Inuvik a \$5 million contract is being let to provide a propane backup should local gas supplies fail, as they will in two to 15 years. Inuvik is preparing itself to deal with the Norman Wells situation of today. Yet, studies have been carried out to consider the conversion of Simpson, Tulita, and Good Hope to natural gas. A lot of money spent on the barely economic possibility of hooking these communities to another finite fossil fuel: natural gas.

But wait. A recent Pembina Suzuki Foundation report proves that natural gas is not the answer to climate change; it's, in fact, one of the causes. Any economic forecast will tell you that fossil fuel prices will continue driving up our small communities costs of living. More importantly, the report clarifies that massive retooling to go to a different fossil fuel uses up precious infrastructure dollars on a temporary solution that is increasingly recognized as insufficient. This use of dollars also detracts from known renewable energy solutions that are often more economic in the same time frame. These solutions contribute both greater economic benefits through job creation and stimulation of local economies, and obviously greater environmental benefits. Does it make sense to keep pouring on the gas, Mr. Speaker? I don't think so.

Nordic and other countries' experience shows that the answer is conversion to local renewables, especially biomass and small hydro in our country. Reasonable payback times are proven; the local employment and investment opportunities are enormous. Safety from volatile energy pricing and reduction in the cost of living are benefits we should be leading our citizens towards now. Imagine if the people of Norman Wells or Inuvik could turn back the clock to when they signed on to gas. Knowing

the conversion costs they paid and, yes, will pay again, we need to ensure that renewables are examined. This is the foresight we should be offering them as leaders, but I don't see it happening.

Mr. Speaker, when we plan for renewable, we plan...

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

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: When we plan continuing dependence on fossil fuels we are planning for now. When we plan for renewables we are planning for from now on. I will be asking questions on why renewables aren't being considered here. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NWT AGRICULTURE POLICY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the 16th Assembly draws to a close, I've had an opportunity to again review the list of goals that I had set out during my time as MLA. I'm pleased to say that many of the items and issues have a checkmark beside them. But, Mr. Speaker, there's one item that I'm sad to say has not been achieved, and that is an NWT agricultural policy.

Our cost of living is high, partially due to the cost of transporting food to our communities, as my colleague Mr. Yakeleya has referred to today. The Territorial Farmers' Association, with membership that runs from south to north and east to west across our territory, is doing an amazing job of keeping the potential of NWT agriculture on the radar, but we still need an NWT agricultural policy, a policy that considers issues such as taxes on land used for agriculture.

A couple of people in Hay River who have been very, very vocal proponents of agriculture in the North recently bought a quarter section of land near Peace River and their annual taxes on 160 acres is \$80. This is the kind of consideration that a jurisdiction neighbouring us pays to promoting agriculture.

We also need a policy that considers things like the availability of purple gas for farm and harvesting practices, the licensing of farm vehicles and registering of them at affordable rates. We also need to recognize the consideration of identifying parcels of land in our land use plans for future agricultural purposes. There is no reason why this can't be done. We have fertile land. If there's one thing we have lots of in the Northwest Territories it's

land. Even if it was land leased in unsettled claim areas, these lands could be farmed. There's no reason why we can't be driving to Yellowknife and see waves of grain blowing in the wind, but there does not seem to be a will for this government to form any kind of an overarching policy that would encourage that.

Some people think that this is a South Slave issue. It is not, when you look at the communities that historically produce food for their regions and regions beyond, when you consider the thousands of pounds of potatoes that were produced in Norman Wells this past year.

Mr. Speaker, our long days of daylight, the land that we have, the desire of our communities to look at greener ways of living are all reasons why this government should make it a high priority in the 17th Assembly to finally put together an agricultural policy, an overarching policy for the Northwest Territories. It is long overdue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHLAND TRAILER PARK

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At my constituency meeting last week I spent considerable time discussing one huge concern, one that's been an ongoing issue for 15 years for Northland mobile home residents.

Northland mobile home park is a neighbourhood of 258 homes in central Yellowknife and houses 1,100 people. As Members know, the infrastructure in the park is in dire need of replacement, and the lack of political will to address this emergency situation is frightening.

I was asked by one of my constituents the other night, do they -- meaning governments -- realize how serious this is. Mr. Speaker, I don't think any government realizes how serious it is, and I am not exaggerating when I say the water and sewer systems in Northland could completely fail at any moment. Literally at any moment.

The repercussions of that failure will be catastrophic for the City of Yellowknife, the GNWT, and the Government of Canada. Let me tell you how. Firstly, should the Northland infrastructure collapse, the area would be condemned. Having raw sewage underneath homes does not meet our public health standards.

The 1,100 people living in Northland would be forced out of their homes. The vacancy rate in Yellowknife at the moment is just .8 percent. Many residents would have no other place to live and would move out of the territory, leaving their jobs and their homes behind. As Northland residents

leave the NWT, we will lose money, a lot of money, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to lose money every year long after they are gone.

The NWT receives \$24,221 per person in transfer payments from the Government of Canada annually. If all 1,100 people in Northland leave, the GNWT will lose over \$26 million in federal transfer payments. If only half of them go, it's only \$13 million lost. We can't afford that loss of revenue in either case. What services will we cut to account for that loss of revenue?

As well, Mr. Speaker, many Northland residents are employees of government; municipal, territorial and federal governments. They are our health care and child care workers, our engineers, our policy and program analysts, our front-line and mid-level office workers, teachers, mining industry employees. Two to three hundred workers or more leaving the community at the same time will create vacancies that employers will not be able to fill. There will be a huge impact on our government services and NWT businesses.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues. When parents move, so do their children. Fifty percent of the population of Northland is children in school. Consider the negative impact on school budgets and school district staff when those children move out.

Along with school district revenues decreasing, the City of Yellowknife will see a \$400,000 drop in their tax revenue. More jobs lost, more services cut.

Mr. Speaker, the scope of the problem at Northland extends far beyond just the replacement of the water and sewer infrastructure. It's an extraordinary situation but it's an emergency situation. This government can be proactive and help with the problem now or sit back, do nothing, and deal with the much larger problem when it arises, when the systems fail and the Northland neighbourhood is condemned.

Cooperation and coordination are needed to tackle this urgent issue and prevent the 1,100 Northland residents from becoming homeless. Is the GNWT up to that challenge? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEED FOR TRAUMA TREATMENT PROGRAMS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker... [Translation] I would like to make a statement on how the government can help us, and this is what I'd like to

talk about today, and I will speak in English from this point on. [Translation ends.]

I rise today to speak about families. Families are the strength of our territory. The mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health is important to the health and prosperity of our territory. Many of our families are suffering. They are suffering because of the effects of trauma in their lives and this is tearing them apart.

Trauma is an event that involves a single experience or repeated experiences that completely overwhelm the individual's ability to cope. Traumatizing experiences can be caused by crime, dysfunctional families, or even experiences such as the residential school system.

The symptoms of trauma show themselves in many ways: addictions, abusive behaviour, low self-esteem, dropping out of school. The effects are cyclical. For example, a child of 10 lives at a home where adults are addicted to alcohol, the parties go all night, the adults in life abuse each other, the child witnesses this, causing trauma. The child cannot get enough sleep. He tries to go to school but he's too tired to do well. The child drops out because he's not doing well and can't get a job later on in life because of his lower literacy levels and education levels, so he copes by drinking and/or doing drugs, is soon addicted, and the cycle continues.

This government does well to deliver programs that treat the symptoms of alcohol and drug abuse, and family violence, with upgrading and literacy programs. However, this government continues to ignore the root cause of these symptoms: trauma.

Trauma treatment programs come in many different forms. They require professionals trained specifically to deal with trauma, but also require a number of other things to be successful. Firstly, they must be community driven, appropriately resourced, support the whole family as a unit, be ongoing, and provide after-care support.

No one department within this government can provide the continuum of supports. It requires a coordinated continuum of support right across the GNWT to enable communities to develop and deliver the programs and services they require to address this trauma.

I will be asking what has been done to support communities to develop trauma treatment programs for our people.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EVICTIONS AND PUBLIC HOUSING
ARREARS IN NUNAKPUT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Northwest Territories is at the boiling point with housing in my riding. Four years of procrastinating with the decisions, four years of mismanagement, and four years of poor policy changes. This government must provide basics firsts, such as roads, health care, schools, and housing. Housing is the most important across the territory. People are being evicted, such as in Paulatuk where they are being evicted. Why they are being evicted is the best example. How is the huge equality between the larger centres and the small communities? Where are these people going to go? This government is not just going to allow them to go homeless this winter. Evicting them because they cannot pay immediately is not the answer.

In the past we were fighting the government and the Housing Corporation for providing adequate housing facilities, such as removing mould, collapsing ceilings, and some broken windows. In the past we were fighting the government and the Housing Corporation to improve the huge overcrowding. Today it's a lot worse. We're fighting this government to stop evicting people in the communities in these substandard houses.

Some of the communities are taking and launching a lawsuit against the Housing Corporation, according to some of the constituents, and this is valid and gaining support, considering everyone is going to go through since the changeover in 2006 to 2009 with the mistakes the Housing Corporation and the Minister made in the public in 2008. With no amendments made to the arrears that have toppled over, no adjustments, attended ledgers, and not properly reassessed everyone's monthly total rent to reduce their arrears to get actual total rent per month from everyone's pay stubs in the submissions.

Some of these concerns in the Housing Corporation are calculating these arrears. It's most likely that they're making up these formulas as they go, or that the administration's filing system is so unorganized that they're just guessing.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. JACOBSON: People across the territory and in Nunakput are fed up. We have enough educated people in our community coming to their senses and tired of being overcharged for houses that are 40 years old.

I'd like to read part of an e-mail from a person in my region:

I caution our leaders in the future. Our local members are consulted prior to making changes to policy. It should be based on community needs, allowing the board of directors to give direction to the LHO, rather than running the other way around. And then you have to forward them to the Yellowknife hierarchy. No cause, no confidence bears much in mind seeing how devastating it has been for our families across the territory.

I will have questions for the Minister of Housing at the appropriate time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN LIVING WITH AUTISM

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last three years and 10 months I have received a number of questions and concerns from constituents on the amount of services and supports provided to families living with children with autism. Based on conversations with the previous Minister of Health and Social Services, it is clear to me that this government does not offer much in the way of dedicated services for these individuals.

Autism is a growing problem both in Canada and the Northwest Territories. One in 110 children born today will live with autism to many different degrees of effect. One in 70 male children born will have autism. Based on these statistics, seven-plus children are being born every year in the Northwest Territories with autism. This means that during the life of this 16th Legislative Assembly, approximately 28 children have been born with autism in the Northwest Territories and will need support.

This is a problem that affects more than just Yellowknife. It is a reality in all of our communities and must be addressed. Currently, families living with children within the NWT but not in Yellowknife have to relocate their families to Yellowknife in hopes of receiving any services. Families will be disappointed when they arrive and find no dedicated services for children living with autism. As a result, they may have to join many of the families in Yellowknife who have had no choice but to leave the North for other jurisdictions throughout Canada and go where dedicated services exist.

My research shows that all provinces in Canada support dedicated services to children living with autism. If we had even a portion of these services available, either through the GNWT or a private provider, we would be able to help families remain in their home communities, including Yellowknife.

I know of some specialists in the South who would be interested in providing these types of services here in the Northwest Territories. Many of these can be done by distance, with short-term visits here in the Northwest Territories. Education, Culture and Employment could become an active partner when the children reach school age.

Great technology and programs exist. Our system should be able to effectively build upon many of these opportunities for the sake of our children. Good people who want to remain in the Northwest Territories would not have to leave in order to provide quality opportunities for their children if we were to be proactive.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. ABERNETHY: Let's find a way to support our residents and find a way to help them in their homes and their communities. I know it's the dying days of this Assembly, however, the current Minister of Health and Social Services will continue to be the Minister of Health and Social Services until October. As such, later today I will be asking him to direct his department to do some research and provide some options for consideration by all Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly early in the life of the next Assembly.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCREASED RATE OF CRIME IN THE NWT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members have heard numerous statements and questions from me in regard to our justice system, and today I want to continue on with that theme related to root causes.

In May I talked about recidivism and the drastic increase in the number of violent crimes being committed in our territory, often by criminals who are committing a violent offence for the 17th, 18th, and sometimes even 30th time. The question I've been getting as an MLA representing a riding here in the city of Yellowknife is: how safe are our streets? When we have an RCMP inspector stating that this past June was the busiest month that the RCMP have had in Yellowknife in the last four years, well, that's a very disturbing situation for me, and I really do believe that the government has got to be paying attention. A night out in downtown Yellowknife on a Friday or Saturday night should not end up with a person getting swarmed, jumped, robbed, or assaulted.

Again, the root causes of this increase in violent crime in our community are drug and alcohol related. Everybody knows that. As a government, what exactly are we going to do about that? We

spend well over \$70 million annually in providing services and programs in the areas of corrections and policing. Why are we not seeing numbers turning in a positive direction? It is time that we start to measure the success of the programs and services we provide with real numbers.

Key social indicators need to be taken stock of right at the very beginning of the life of a new government. The goal of this incoming government would be to see those key social indicator numbers come down after four years, not go up. This certainly would help lend a level of accountability to a new government.

The bottom line is, business owners, residents, and constituents, and even the RCMP are saying that things are getting worse, not better. It is time that the debate over a government run and operated alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre in the city of Yellowknife is resurrected. Could the root causes of crime in our community be better addressed by a dedicated service centre for addictions? I absolutely think so.

I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION POLICY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the summer a very interesting and serious concern came forward to my office. It was the issue of emergency medical pick-up of a person who was at a well-known northern lodge. We all have heard about the government preaching for years about how important it is to get active and be active, to ensure that we live healthy lifestyles and stay healthy as long as possible. This occasion was clearly no different than matching one of those wonderful campaigns about being active. However, during this outing a serious respiratory problem became the highlight of the occasion and overtook this fun event, becoming a serious priority of this family.

These types of priorities... I don't have to lecture this House, as everyone knows when it's a respiratory issue it can be life or death. So unable to completely gauge the seriousness of this medical emergency, they did what every other normal person would do: they called for help. The call for help went out. To their surprise their call, though heard in the sense of the communication sense, was denied any type of support. The reason being that they are not at a health centre. So they were told to find their own way in for services.

It only seems to reason that not everyone can be sick at a health centre. It only seems to reason that not everyone can be sick or seriously ill in a community that has an ambulance service. So to be clear, the seriousness of the call was heard, but the issue came down to the fact that you were not in a community that had a health centre so you have to figure it out on your own.

After hearing this serious concern, I brought it to our Health Minister, who was actually well versed on this particular situation. Unusual as it is, the policy says you're on your own.

Today during question period I will have some questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services to ask how you are going to directly change and update the policy. Because, as Northerners, we take great pride in our traditions and lifestyles of being out on the land. This alone says, wait a minute, you may want to rethink that policy. I will have questions later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE LATE JONATHAN STEVEN ANDRE

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with great sadness and a heavy heart to pay homage to one of our own. Our own Gwich'in boxer Jonathan Steven Andre. Jonathan was born to May and James Andre on March 30, 1980, in Teetlit Zheh, which is Fort McPherson. His grandparents, John and Rachel Robert of Teetlit Zheh and Anthony and Carol Andre of Tsiigehtchic.

Jonathan's early life was one of turmoil and trouble. He had battled with drugs and alcohol, and with violence and anger. However, in the last decade, much to everyone's surprise and happiness, Jonathan turned his life around.

In 2007 he left home to move to Yellowknife where he began training as a boxer. It was in Yellowknife where he met Andrea, the love of his life. Jonathan and Andrea later moved to Edmonton where he later joined the Cougar Boxing Club and where he had a great amateur career where he won 22 out of 29 fights, including back to back Alberta Provincial Junior Middleweight titles in 2008 and 2009.

Jonathan turned pro in October 2010 where he had a record of two wins, no losses, and where he was very competitive.

Jonathan was well known and respected for his work ethic and his quiet and respective demeanour. Mr. Speaker, it was apparent that he had high ambitions and was also highly regarded in the boxing community. If you met Jonathan, you'd know him to be a calm and reserved young man who was very considerate of whoever he met. While

Jonathan was a gentleman outside the ring, he was also known as a fierce competitor as he took his training seriously.

Jonathan worked for the Edmonton Break and Clutch in which he was looking forward to returning home to Teetlit Zheh, Fort McPherson, and to partake in the Midway Lake Music Festival. He was going to speak to the youth about how he turned his life around and how they can also do the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, he credits his family, his faith, and his girlfriend for helping him strengthen his life.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. On Sunday, June 26, 2011, Jonathan was struck and killed by a speeding car as he walked across 118th Avenue in Edmonton. Thirty-one years old, way too early for his time.

Jonathan was survived by his parents, James and May; his sister, Jayda; his nephew, Liam; his brother, Fraser; and his love, Andrea.

Jonathan was very proud of who he was and where he came from, proud to be Gwich'in, proud to be from Teetlit Zheh. Jonathan Steven Andre was laid to rest in Teetlit Zheh on Sunday, July 2nd. He was our Gwich'in boxer and we are all so proud of him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 6-16(6): STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF BILL 10: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HERITAGE FUND ACT

MR. HAWKINS: Your Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to report on its review of Bill 10, Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act, and commends it to the House.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to report on its review of Bill 10, Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act. The bill would establish a Heritage Fund for the present and future residents of the Northwest Territories, to extend the benefit of today's economic development and resource development for future generations.

The bill sets up the framework for investing funds allocated to it by the Legislative Assembly. Those savings will become the principal of the fund, which are permanent contributions. Only gains on the principal can be withdrawn, and such withdrawals cannot begin for at least 20 years.

Bill 10 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on March 10, 2011, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations for review. The review began May 19, 2010, with opening comments from the Minister of Finance. The committee then held a public hearing in Yellowknife on May 20th, and a public clause-by-clause review on August 12, 2011.

Support for the Bill and Recommendations from the Public

All submissions to the committee supported the creation of the Northwest Territories Heritage Fund, and included thoughtful suggestions for strengthening the bill. The committee received oral and written submissions from:

- Canadian Federation of Independent Business;
- Pembina Institute;
- West Point First Nation;
- Ecology North; and
- Alternatives North.

In addition, a written submission was received from Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley. The committee thanks all those who contributed their time and effort to this important initiative for the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to pass the floor over to my colleague and member of Government Ops, MLA Abernethy for Great Slave. Thank you.

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

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The majority of the submissions agreed on the following:

- 1) The act should describe the purpose of the fund as ensuring continuing benefits to current and future NWT residents from revenue generated by the development of non-renewable resources;
- 2) The act should specify what Heritage Fund withdrawals can be used for;
- 3) The act should set a fixed annual percentage of defined revenue sources for deposit into the Heritage Fund;
- 4) More than 10 years is required for funds to accumulate before any withdrawals (at least 20 years was the most common suggestion);
- 5) The fund and projects it contributes to should be free from political interference; and

- 6) The fund should be managed at arm's length from government.

Half the submissions also recommended that the Heritage Fund be invested ethically, with standards for doing so described in the act.

One intervener suggested that one goal of the Heritage Fund should be to minimize future tax increases.

One submission advised that the Heritage Fund should be able to issue government-guaranteed bonds in which the public could invest.

Committee members carefully considered all this input, including the need for transparency and regular reporting to the public on the management and performance of the fund. The committee shared the Minister's view that the cost of managing the fund in its early years be kept to a minimum in order to maximize returns.

Balancing public feedback and practical necessities, committee members brought five amendments forward at the public clause-by-clause review on August 12, 2011:

1. Describing the purpose of the fund as providing benefits from ongoing economic development, including the development of non-renewable resources;

Mr. Speaker, I'll now pass over the final reading of the report to my colleague Mr. Hawkins.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Abernethy.

2. Ensuring that Section 96 (as well as Sections 89, 97 and 100, as originally proposed) of the Financial Administration Act applies to the Heritage Fund, providing for properly detailed annual reports, tabled in the House;
3. Extending the "no withdrawal" period from 10 years to 20 years;
4. Providing for a committee review of the Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act every 10 years, and determining that the first review should include:
 - a. An examination of the operation of the act;
 - b. Recommendations respecting how to obtain public input on the expenditures to be made from the fund;
 - c. Recommendations respecting independent oversight and management of the Heritage Fund; and
 - d. Recommendations respecting any amendments that should be made to the act;
 and

5. Establishing the Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act only be amended by a special two-thirds majority of Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister of Finance concurred with all the amendments except the final one. Thus, the first four amendments are included in the bill as referred to the Assembly for consideration in Committee of the Whole. The Standing Committee on Government Operations appreciates the Minister's cooperation in the development of this historic bill.

Additional Comments and Recommendations

Members of the Standing Committee on Government Operations agree with the Minister of Finance that the Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act, while a major step forward, represents a 'bare-bones' framework for investment. It will be the job of future Assemblies to flesh out the act and regulations to ensure sufficient public input and accountable, independent management when the time is right. It will also be the job of future Assemblies to allocate money to the fund. Growth of the fund will be a significant challenge in the next several years. However, once the Heritage Fund is established, NWT residents will expect to see deposits made, even if they are modest.

Mr. Speaker, I have three recommendations.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the 17th Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures strongly consider adding the automatic referral of the annual report of the Northwest Territories Heritage Fund to the terms of reference to the appropriate standing committee.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the government draft regulations for the operation of the Heritage Fund and refer them to the appropriate standing committee for review and feedback in a timely manner.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Caucus of the 17th Legislative Assembly establish a process convention to facilitate the referral of a limited category of regulations to standing committee for review and comment prior to their final enactment.

Mr. Speaker, that now brings me to the motion.

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

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Committee Report 6-16(6) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Committee Report 6-16(6) will be moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, I would like to direct your attention to the presence in the visitors' gallery of our Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. David Brock; Deputy Chief Electoral Officer Nicole Latour-Theede; and the returning officers for each of the electoral districts in the Northwest Territories: Phoebe Parent, Deh Cho; Shauna Morgan, Frame Lake; Tessie Gonzales, Hay River North, and a constituent of mine; Heather Coakwell, Hay River South; Arlene Hansen, Inuvik Boot Lake; Juanita Bourque, Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mary Beauchamp, Kam Lake; Daryn Erigaktuak, Mackenzie Delta; Harriet Koyina, Monfwi; Deborah Stipdonk; Nahendeh, Molly Nogasak, Nunakput; Marjolaine Larocque, Range Lake; Margrit Minder, Sahtu; Margo Harney, Thebacha; Tony Lafferty, Tu Nedhe; Pam Dunbar, Weledeh; Gazira Chan, Yellowknife Centre; and Pat Thagard, Yellowknife South.

I hope I got those names right or didn't do too badly on the spellings. Welcome to the Assembly.

I would also like to recognize in the Assembly today the Speaker from the Ontario Legislature, Mr. Steve Peters, and his executive assistant, Maggie Head. Welcome to the Assembly.

The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

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

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Ms. Deborah Stipdonk, a resident of Fort Simpson. Welcome to

the gallery. As well as Ms. Gazira Chan, a former resident of Fort Simpson. Welcome. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. I think I missed one name when I was calling out the returning officers: Brenda Kolson from Great Slave.

The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize and acknowledge a very good returning officer, a fine lady and a friend, Margo Harney.

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

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a constituent and the returning officer for the Great Slave riding, Ms. Bren Kolson.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not too often we get to recognize constituents from our communities. I'd like to recognize Arlene Hansen. And we can say this time there will be an election in Inuvik Boot Lake.

---Laughter

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just like the Premier said, it's not too often we get people from our home communities. I'd like to welcome Molly Nogasak from my home of Tuktoyaktuk.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a former constituent of Inuvik Twin Lakes who is also the returning officer. She didn't move out of the riding; they actually moved the line. So welcome Juanita Bourque. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a number of people today over here on the left side of the gallery. We have a number of residents of Northland who are here to observe the proceedings: Cheryl Fountain and her daughter Rhiannon Hoddinott; Rebecca Alty; Vivian Hansen; Wade Friesen; and Celeste Coomber. You will note that some of them are young, and some of them are very young, and some of them are not so young.

I'd also like to recognize the returning officer for Frame Lake, Shauna Morgan. Welcome everyone.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a few members in the gallery at this time. I think they're still up there. First of all, I recognize my constituency assistant who is a constituent of Yellowknife Centre and that would be Maud Robinson-Spence. As well as, I think, flanked somewhere up there I am recognized not as the MLA but also as the father; my two children are up there somewhere: McKinley Hawkins and Hudson Hawkins. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize the returning officer from the Deh Cho, Phoebe Parent. She has, I believe, been the returning officer for every one of the three times that I've run for an election, so hopefully the fourth time will be the charm. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to recognize a Hay River South constituent, as well, the returning officer for Hay River South, Ms. Heather Coakwell, and a long-time friend and educator in Hay River, Ms. Tessie Gonzales.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the returning officer from Tu Nedhe, Tony Lafferty.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also recognize the returning officer for Weledeh, a lady who has served in that capacity a number of times, I believe, Ms. Pam Dunbar.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize also the lovely returning officer from the Sahtu, Margrit Minder. I'd also like to recognize from this past summer a CANOL 50-mile hiker, Tia Hanna, from the Northland residents in Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. If we have 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 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 145-16(6): FUNDING FOR FOOD MAIL PROGRAM

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked about the Nutrition North Program under the federal government's responsibility and what type of a disaster our northern consumers are facing today as they used to operate the Food Mail Program. I want to ask this government, I don't know which, maybe the Premier or the Minister who is responsible under the Food Mail Program, what types of monitoring initiatives are done to monitor the food costs in our small communities so that we are well informed as to how the new subsidies are being applied.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of ways that monitoring is done, some not specifically related to the Food Mail Program, as we look at our consumer price index to the food basket issue. We've committed, as well, to track the cost of food and the cost of living in the small communities tied into the electrical rate review.

Our role in the Food Mail Program is very modest. We were given about 390-some-thousand dollars through Health Canada to do nutrition education. Those are some of the areas where we're involved and some of the monitoring that is done. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, what I'm receiving as some of the complaints from the constituents are that the contract between the Northwest Company and the Nutrition North Program is that the retail store is not so concerned about the diet that's supposed to be provided under the program for the residents; it's more concerned with the bottom line profit. So the type of monitoring that this government is responsible for, how is it that this government is educating people on nutrition and northern healthy foods when we can't even get them in our communities? If we do get them, they're either spoiled rotten or they cost too damn much for people to buy. How is it that this government is telling the Northwest Company you need to have nutritional food here and some of those products are not getting in there? And if they are, they go bad after one day on the shelf.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member has to keep in mind that this is a federal program. It

is an important program. There are concerns with it and I appreciate the Member's concern, and we have the same concern that the savings that accrue to the retailers are not being passed on to the consumers. We still have a great interest in proper diet. Our whole focus on prevention, Get Active campaigns, proper nutrition to do with healthy eating, diabetes, all these other things are still critical pieces of the education that we can't turn our back on. We have a small fiscal role with the funding from the federal government, but this is, first and foremost, a federal program.

MR. YAKELEYA: I understand it's the program. You look on the website, it is a federal program. However, this government here has tied itself to it by signing the contribution agreement to educate the public on healthy foods in our small communities. What advice has this government to date provided to the federal government to make sure the Freight Subsidy Program for food works for the people in the Northwest Territories? What I'm hearing right now is that in the Northwest Territories the freight subsidy isn't working and we're paying about 20 bucks for freight for five or 10 pounds of potatoes. Where's the education part?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The education component focuses a lot on the personal choices of what's available, what choices to make if you have a choice between healthy foods, vegetables, versus pop and chips. This is a program that has its flaws. It is a program that is of concern in all northern communities, and I will commit to the Member that they will have an opportunity here probably next week to pass on concerns when I get a chance to have a conversation with the Minister. Minister Aglukkaq knows this very well since she is from Nunavut, that there are challenges to meet with this program.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People in my communities are not dumb. They know that they want to give healthy foods, healthy options to their children. When you have four litres of milk at \$12.56 in Tulita, milk here in Yellowknife is \$4.99, that's an increase of about 80 percent. If we have oranges at \$8.35 a kilogram in Tulita and \$3 a kilogram in Yellowknife, that's a 178 percent increase.

Can the Minister commit that this program will change so that people in our small communities can buy healthy foods? We are not so dumb that we're going to raise children on pop and chips and chocolate bars. Enough of this. Our choices are very limited, to one store. The federal government needs to get the message: buy the healthy foods or don't do it at all.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This is a complex issue and the Member has touched on a

lot of issues. I agree that the program is flawed. It has shortcomings. We're not in a position, since this is a federal program, to make changes to it. We can provide our concerns to the Minister. As Health Minister and having been Health Minister now for over five years, one of the messages that I've constantly made is that Northerners have to look after their diet, exercise, don't smoke, and don't drink. Those four things alone from the personal choices would have a great benefit to their health. The issue that the Member is talking about on this food program, I agree. I will follow up with the federal Minister.

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

QUESTION 146-16(6):
MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY
FOR DEALING WITH TRAUMA

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in my Member's statement I spoke about trauma and how it affects families in our northern territory. We do have many different programs available such as alcohol, substance abuse, et cetera. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if there is a coordinated strategy to help the families out there suffering, and individuals, with regard to improving their mental health and well-being. Some will go to addictions counselling and sometimes it's not enough and there are other aspects affecting their lives. Has there been a coordinated approach or something similar to look at this area which I feel is lacking?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is, in the government, Health and Social Services has a Mental Health and Addictions Program that we're looking at that's been developed over the years, that has evolved. There is another report that's following up on the state of emergency, and state, of course, the reviews that were done of the Addictions and Mental Health Program. At the same time, most of the other practitioners, social workers, nurses all have some training to deal with the issue of trauma. The issue of trauma is a very wide one. There could be physical trauma; there could be very specific types of other trauma. We have some capacity to deal with those issues. We do provide those to one degree or another.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I just wonder if there's anybody in the department who is taking a coordinated approach and applying a medical concept to the word "trauma," because we've got many, many issues in the North. The most recent, of course, is the residential school symptoms and syndromes. However, it's as a result of trauma that leads to

alcoholism and family abuse. It's prevalent throughout families, affecting children and their ability to go to school. Is there a coordinated approach to mental health and wellness? It seems we have individual programming, and Members in this House speak to it often on individual different programming.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There is a coordinated approach. There are these broad programs, mental health and addictions programs, and all the other programs that are flowed through the various health boards. Each health board then in turn delivers those programs at a community level with the resources they have available with some common standards. There is a significant amount of work that was done in how addictions workers were going to get paid and what type of job descriptions. Mental health workers, community health workers, wellness workers. We've invested a significant amount of money in this area, and I agree with the Member that it is a significant area and still there is work that needs to be done. We're just waiting for the last final report to see about what suggested changes are needed for this program to continue to evolve.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'd like to know as well as our health professionals out there, is that specific to their job description, trauma, and/or is there training available to them?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There is a range of training that's available. Of course, the more detailed the training as you move up the ladder in terms of those qualifications with degrees, psychologists, psychiatrists, those type of things where you're going to specialize in addictions all require additional work. Depending on the job and the job qualifications, that range will apply, and some are entry level and some are more advanced. They cover that whole range of experience that the Member is referring to.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The funding that's available to the small and remote communities for health and wellness is about \$5,000 and it's usually specifically targeted to alcohol or substance abuse. This is what I was speaking about when I talked about a community-driven program that they want to see. It's often limited. Is there a way that the Minister will look at loosening some of those guidelines and provide alternative and specific trauma available to the communities?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As we have this dialogue in the House, I have staff making note, and I will commit to the Member that we will have discussions with the Health and Social Services Authority in Simpson to look at some of the concerns and possibly follow up for further

clarification from the Member so that we can look at the right areas and to give the appropriate response to the Member.

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

QUESTION 147-16(6):
SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN
LIVING WITH AUTISM

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services and follow up on my Member's statement from earlier today where I asked that the Minister direct his department to do some research and provide some options for consideration by all Members of the 17th Assembly with respect to autism programming in the Northwest Territories. Currently, there is nothing dedicated to children with autism, and I think with the increasing rates of autism, it's time that we take that proactive step and implement some programs for northern children here in the North with autism.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of autism, as the Member indicates, is one where there is a concern. There are a significant number of individuals affected. As we plan for our transition into the 17th Assembly, each department, including Health, will be pulling together the list of issues to be considered and priorities to be addressed, and this will be on that list as decisions are made to look at what's possible with the resources that are available.

MR. ABERNETHY: I'm quite pleased to hear that autism and programs in the North for autistic children will be on the transition document going into the 17th Assembly. What I was asking is that the Minister is going to be the Minister for the next couple of months, regardless of the election. There's a great opportunity for the Minister to direct his staff to start doing some research into the alternate programs that exist in southern Canada. Every jurisdiction in this country offers programming for autistic children except the Northwest Territories. I'm asking that he in the interim have his department start doing the research and pulling together some facts and information and preparing some quality analysis of what's out there so that we or the future 17th Assembly can make some informed decisions on autism programming here in the Northwest Territories.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Some of that work is already being done or has been done at headquarters. It is an issue that I, as well, am familiar with. I do have recollections of dealing with

it when I was Minister previously. I'll commit to the Member that that information update is available.

MR. ABERNETHY: I look forward to receiving an update on the research that they've already done.

Once again, this is an incredibly changing field. More information is coming forward all the time. We're learning new things about autism. New programs are being developed. I'm asking the Minister to go out and research some of the new programs that exist. I know that in Alberta they're doing very proactive and productive things. I'd like the Minister to commit to having... I did provide the Minister, as an example, with a large list of programs that are offered in Alberta, and I would like the Minister to have his department look into those programs and provide a bit of analysis on what aspects of those programs might be doable here in the Northwest Territories, given our limited financial situation, and which ones can and can't. I'm looking forward to a commitment from the Minister to actually look at some of the program areas that I did provide to him.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As I indicated, there is some work being done, and I do thank the Member for all the work that he did pull together. Of equal importance, I believe, and I know that there are very many capable people that I know who are dealing with autism with family members, that I think of equal value would be to find out what kind of supports could be put in place within the resources available to assist them. I know that over the years they've done an incredible amount of good work. Just on their own, often with little or no support from government, and they've amassed a very, very valuable amount of information and experience. It would be helpful to see how things could be done better in the North.

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

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Minister. There are a lot of good things that some of the private citizens of this territory have done. We still have citizens who are looking for services in the Northwest Territories and they're not finding anything that suits their child's needs.

I did provide the Minister -- as I indicated in my last question -- a large list of different program areas that are new, and unique, and cutting edge in Alberta. I know that some of these organizations would be willing to come up here and help. I am just asking the Minister to commit in his reviewing, to actually contact some of these organizations, and have some of these organizations and his department look at some of the alternatives that exist that may not have existed when they did their original analysis. It's a simple question. Will he commit to having his department look at some of these alternatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I was under the impression that I committed to two things: to look at the information that the Member provided, as well of equal importance to look at what Northerners have learned and what experiences they have amassed and the things they have been able to do in a very, very effective way here in the North. I think there should be a combination of the two. So, yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 148-16(6):
PUBLIC HOUSING RENT SCALE

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I spoke of policies of the Housing Corporation that need to change to provide work incentives and try to develop some sort of market in small, rural and remote communities. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister if the Housing Corporation is going to be working on some sort of policy, or if he's going to be directing the corporation to actually make changes in the rent scale to provide work incentives on reviews that are being done by the corporation now. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members know, there's been a lot of work done on the Shelter Policy Review in the last little bit. Part of that review was looking at the rent scale. I have met with committee. I've given a bit of an update on some of the work that's been done. I can inform this House that the rent scale review, for the most part, has been completed. We are hoping to use a lot of the data and some recommendations in there in the transition document to the 17th Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Because it's very important to communities and it's something that the communities have complained about frequently over the last several years, I'd like to ask the Minister when he anticipates that there will be some sort of positive impacts of the rent scale in as far as developing work incentives. I mean, it's not really the corporation's responsibility to develop work incentives, to remove these incentives from the rent scale for working. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I believe a lot of the work done on the rent scale review goes a long way in addressing some of the concerns that have been raised by Members of the Legislative Assembly and folks across the Territories. I think folks, for the most part, will be pleased with some of the information that will be coming out.

Again, because it's such a major decision and one that requires a little more work, I think it would be

best if it were put into a transition document as part of the 17th Legislative Assembly, and they can have a look at it and determine how early they want to roll this thing out. But most of the work has been done and, again, the decision, because it's a major policy shift, would be one that would be made early in the 17th Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: The Public Housing Program for the most part should essentially be a stock program that helps people in a certain state of their life. If the government is directing staff or putting in a transitional document removing the disincentives to work, then will this government or will this Minister direct staff to further develop a process so that public housing people can easily transition into homeownership? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That is one of our goals: to work with the tenants in public housing and make the transition into homeownership as seamless as possible. We are hoping with all the new information... We are just completing the evaluation of the Housing Choices Program, which some recommendations again will be made early in the life of the 17th Assembly. I think, all in all, Mr. Speaker, a lot of good work has been done that has been addressing a lot of concerns that were raised in this House with motions passed. We've heard in every community that we've travelled to about some of their concerns. I think the new document will go a long way to answering a lot of questions and coming up with solutions, a lot of concerns that people have. Thank you.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. As a representative from a small community, we were seeing one program in the Housing Corporation, the programs, I'm sorry in the Housing Corporation, are there to address all the housing concerns across the Territories, whether you live in a larger centre like Yellowknife, Hay River, or Fort Smith. That same program is used to address the issues in small communities. I would like to ask the Minister if in the transition document, the Minister could ensure that there is a different set of programs for small communities versus larger communities contemplated for the next government. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That would be part of the Housing Choices Evaluation Program, if there is a difference in small communities versus small communities. As I said, it's an evaluation we are undertaking right now. We are expecting to have -- as I said in committee the other day -- a preliminary report hopefully done by the end of our term here. So we are still available. We would be able to have a quick glance at it, and it would be a transition document and recommendations to the 17th Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Before I go to the next Member, I'd like to recognize in the gallery the presence of the chief from Behchoko, Mr. Clifford Daniels.

The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

QUESTION 149-16(6):
HOUSING RESOURCES IN NUNAKPUT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my Member's statement was regarding the housing situation in Nunakput. Mr. Speaker, is the government allocating necessary resources for Nunakput to get our fair share in housing resource dollars with regard to the upkeep and the units in the communities? 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. We try very hard to distribute the resources for housing fairly across the Northwest Territories. I think if we add up the numbers, we'll find the smaller communities get a higher average of money than some of the larger communities. I know in the Member's community alone, Paulatuk, the one he referenced, this year there was a \$2 million investment in the community. That's with the homeownership, the MNI work that's being done. We recognize some of the units need some work, and we've been fortunate the last few years that we've been able to allocate a lot of funds to some of these smaller communities across the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: It's good to see \$2 million being spent in Paulatuk. But Sachs Harbour has been waiting for a unit since I started my term here three and a half years ago, almost four years ago. Is the Minister going to put in his transition document to the 17th Legislative Assembly a four-plex or something for Sachs Harbour? I hope to be here to push that through, but is the Minister going to do that?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We recognize the fact that some of our communities have gone longer without units being put in their communities than others. We are starting to recognize the fact that some of the smaller communities now are being left behind a bit, so they are going to need an investment. I can assure the Member that I will make a recommendation that the smaller communities and the one he brings up quite regularly, and rightfully so, Sachs Harbour, does need an investment in infrastructure on the housing side in their community. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: The second part of my Member's statement is the evictions in the communities I represent, Paulatuk. Mr. Speaker,

we've been trying to work with the government with regard to the open-handed approach on how people can pay back. There are no jobs in the community like they have here in Yellowknife. There's not any way of finding that kind of money. I always look back to the way ECE had it. I'm not pointing fingers at ECE. There's got to be an open-handed approach to working with the community and the people, instead of evicting people from their houses when it's coming fall time. Winter's coming. What is the government going to do with the people that have no house or roof over their heads? What is the government going to do?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We've been trying to work very hard with the tenants of Paulatuk housing. We've seen quite an improvement in the collection rate in Paulatuk. It's steadily climbing. The assessments have improved dramatically in Paulatuk. The reassessments that I mentioned to the Member, I think when he asked earlier, have been completed and there's been a substantial drop in some of the arrears for a lot of the folks in Paulatuk. I know in one particular case alone it's almost like \$100,000 has been removed from their arrears. That's a significant improvement.

We've tried on many occasions to work with them. I've seen some notes where 17, 18 letters have gone out. People have come in, entered into repayment programs. Those who have honoured their repayment programs are still in the units. Those that didn't honour them are the ones that are, unfortunately, being evicted.

MR. JACOBSON: The people that are being evicted are the ones that entered the repayment program and half of them have no jobs. So how can they repay? You're either buying food for your kids, trying to feed them, clothe them, or pay your rent. Or pay your power bill. All these bills that I'm talking about are all too high in the smaller communities. Can the community government, can the Hamlet of Paulatuk approach the Housing Corporation to take over the Paulatuk housing under the Hamlet of Paulatuk and run it themselves? Is that possible?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: To answer the first part of the Member's question, we're always willing to work with the tenants. If there are some hardships that tenants run into, all they need to do is go see the LHO. We're not without a heart. They'd be willing to talk with them.

As to the second part of the Member's question about whether or not the hamlet can take over the provision of housing, we're always open to those types of suggestions. If the hamlet wants to seriously consider it, sit down with the Housing Corporation, then I'm sure there are arrangements that we can work out.

I'll say it right now publicly, that they have to understand that they'll still be expected to collect that rent, because without being able to collect that

rent they will have to use a lot of their own money to look after the maintenance. So they do need a revenue. But that's one of the things that we can discuss with them. The opportunity is there.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really happy to hear that. The Minister says the Housing Corporation has a heart. I'm asking the Housing Corporation to stop all the evictions as of today. To try to rework and get re-agreements put back through the person that's in that predicament and put it into workable agreements where they're able to pay something. Is the Minister willing to do that?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Evictions are the last resort. Evictions are something that have taken maybe a year or two to get to. We've given folks the opportunity to honour their repayment plans that they've agreed to enter into and we don't want to evict anybody.

All we're asking people to do is honour the agreements that they've made. We've seen an improvement across the Northwest Territories in the collection rate. Some are up at 127 percent. The majority of them are 99 percent. Since we've taken it over, back from ECE, and the assessments are being done by the LHOs, we've seen the collection rate go from 82 percent to 93 percent. So that's quite an improvement. If we could do this for the community, then we're telling the rest of the Territories you don't have to pay your rent and we're not going to evict you. That's the whole principle in this.

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

QUESTION 150-16(6):
USE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
REVOLVING FUND

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister responsible for PPD, petroleum products division. It's in regard to the price of products, especially in the community I represent of Tsiigehtchic where the price of gas is \$1.71 a litre, yet it's a government-run operation.

I understand there's a \$5 million Petroleum Revolving Fund that's there to subsidize these isolated communities to allow them to have a price that's close to being competitive with the regional markets. I'd like to ask the Minister why it is that we are not using the Petroleum Revolving Fund to offset the high cost of petroleum products in those communities that we have an operation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a Petroleum Products Revolving Fund that we use to soften the blow of any price increases and we have been using it. We use it in a lot of our communities. However, the petroleum products program is based on full-cost recovery. The costs are based on what it takes to purchase the fuel, deliver the fuel, and have somebody, an agent in the community be responsible for the community delivery.

MR. KRUTKO: I believe the program must have been working at one time, because you were able to get the cheapest gas in the region from the community of Tsiigehtchic where this petroleum products division operates. Now they are the highest in the region. Other suppliers of those products are cheaper from other outlying communities, whether it's Aklavik, Inuvik, or Fort McPherson, which are adjacent to this community. I'd like to ask the Minister, can you look into if the subsidy was applied in the community of Tsiigehtchic and why is it their rates are the highest in the region?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We certainly can check. I believe any time there's a price increase in the community, the community is notified along with the MLA. So that notification would have been made. We also notify and get permission from Cabinet to use the fund that is in the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. The prices include product costs, transportation costs, sales commissions, any O and M costs for the tank farm, and our fuel is purchased on a different format than the private industry does. In many cases, such as Tsiigehtchic, there are, and have been, occasions where our fuel was the lowest in the region. It all depends. It depends on what the purchase prices are at the time that we buy it and what it costs to land it on the ground. We will certainly follow up and see if a subsidy was provided in the case of Tsiigehtchic.

MR. KRUTKO: I had an opportunity to speak to the operator in Tsiigehtchic and the regional director of petroleum products division in Inuvik, and he says that their understanding was that the subsidy was not applied, for one reason or another. So I would like to ask the Minister if you could check if the subsidy was applied to the operation in Tsiigehtchic, and if so, could you give me a response back? Also, can you give me something in writing so that I can provide it to the community?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The fuel subsidy is not always automatically applied. We try to utilize the fuel subsidy to lessen the impact when there is a fairly huge or large discrepancy in what was being charged for fuel from one year to the next. That's the situation that we look at. It's not an automatic issuance of the subsidy. We don't provide subsidies

to every community. In some cases, in some years we don't provide any.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Can the Minister tell me, out of the \$5 million revolving fund how much money is left in the fund, and how has it been allocated and distributed?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: There's no \$5 million fund. It's, I think, \$700,000 and there's... Sorry. There's \$420,000 left in the fund.

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

QUESTION 151-16(6):

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT FACILITY

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to pick up on my Member's statement from earlier today where I was talking about the root causes of crime in our community. It also has a direct impact on the level of homelessness that we see, especially here in Yellowknife.

I've been a Member of the Legislature now for eight years. The topic of a dedicated, stand-alone drug and alcohol treatment centre located in the city of Yellowknife has been a topic of discussion for that eight years, and even before that. I'd like to ask the Minister where exactly is a drug and alcohol treatment facility on the government's radar going forward.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are no new treatment facilities in the capital plan in the foreseeable future for Health and Social Services. There are many other projects, but there are no new plans for imminent treatment centres.

MR. RAMSAY: We're hearing it from residents, business owners, and constituents about the level of crime in our community, the fact that addictions seem to be getting much worse, affecting young people in our community, and as a government I'm just wondering what we are doing about it. I'd like to ask the Minister how exactly does the Government of the Northwest Territories measure and evaluate the success and/or failure of the programs and services related to addictions in our territory.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There are a number of ways to do that. Some of the most obvious ones, of course, are to see if there are clients and if they return or if they don't. If they don't return, is it because they have successfully dealt with their addictions issues?

The fundamental issue goes way back. The Member talked about root causes and it's something we all struggle with. The first, most fundamental issue is getting individuals born healthy. That's probably the biggest challenge. As the Member has indicated, in Yellowknife there are concerns. It's the ultimate, biggest magnet in the community we have. There are a lot of services here that attract people. It is a challenge to deal with all the folks as they come through town.

MR. RAMSAY: What the government is currently offering and currently doing is not working. I'd like to get some type of commitment from the Minister that the government in its transition document going forward into the next government will identify the area of addictions and how we deal with addictions as a government as a key priority for the next government. I'd like to get a commitment from the Minister that that will be there and that they will examine all the programs and services related to addictions here in the territory.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That is a significant issue. This issue is on the agenda of every government that I've been involved in, and every Assembly, and will continue to be. The decision about priorities with the resources we have available and the best way to do the programming to deal with the issue of addictions and the other areas that the Member has talked about are going to be critical challenges for the incoming 17th Assembly. That issue will be there for them to consider.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to, in my last question to the Minister, ask how it is that the government can in a meaningful way evaluate what we are offering today in the area of addictions. How can we evaluate that in a meaningful way so that we can ensure that the money that we are spending in the area of addictions is being spent the right way and actually making a difference?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We could track, and we do track, the statistics in jails where the majority of the crimes are alcohol related, and the occupancies of our family violence shelters, of our group homes, of the number of children in care that indicate that most of those issues which have alcohol related somewhere in that process. In terms of those that actually go through the door of a treatment centre or make use of community services, there is some tracking done, but that's more on an individual basis. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 152-16(6):

RECREATIONAL LAND USE FRAMEWORK

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. We'll keep him really busy today. I'd like to follow up on the process underway to develop a recreational land use framework in the Yellowknife block transfer area and to control squatting on all lands surrounding Yellowknife.

In July the Minister informed all the Yellowknife Members that the recreational lease planning study is underway to gather information for development of the framework, and I applaud this action. The Minister also said that stakeholder and public consultations are the next step. Can the Minister tell us what the current plan and schedule is for that work?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department will begin public consultation on the draft framework in October of 2011. We will be providing a briefing to various stakeholders including the City of Yellowknife and the Town of Inuvik because of the affected area up there. The Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Cassidy Point/Prosperous Lake, we'd be providing them with a briefing prior to the public release of the draft framework. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: That's quite a bit of slippage, obviously, from what was previously the plan. I believe this work is intended to be completed by the end of December of this year, so that is clearly in jeopardy. I would ask the Minister to please keep us informed on that and perhaps explain that delay.

In the February session, Mr. Speaker, I also congratulated the Minister on the work underway to prosecute current block land transfer squatters and stop new squatting. I pointed out that squatting on Commissioner's land is only part of the problem and that the federal government does nothing to help. I asked the Minister then to put pressure on the federal government to meet its responsibilities and he said, "I can assure the Member and all Members that it is our intent to constantly work and put pressure on the federal government, and I can assure the Members that I will continue to push that issue quite strongly."

My question now is: could the Minister tell me what action he has taken since February to get the federal government moving on enforcement, and take action on the scores of illegal squatters on their lands? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, obviously, that is a problem, and I did commit to the Members that I would have some discussion. I have had the

opportunity. We had a FPT for Ministers of municipal government. I had the opportunity to discuss the situation with some of the members down there. Unfortunately, we didn't get as much time with the federal Minister as we would have liked. We were very pressed for time. As I assured the Members, it is an issue that we have to continue to raise, and raise with the federal government to make them aware of their responsibility and the fact that there are a lot of people that are squatting on Crown land. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister. I appreciate that action. I would ask the Minister, in recognition that he's attempted to have conversations, will the Minister commit to me now that before the end of this government he will write to the federal Minister both to inform him of our diligent actions and to formally request that the DIAND regional office begin a program of prosecution and enforcement to clear and prevent squatting on federal Crown lands, lands that we may soon be responsible for? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I will commit to the Member and all Members that I will communicate very quickly here by way of written form to the federal Minister advising him of our concerns. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate that commitment from the Minister. I'd like to ask if the Minister has ensured, or this government has ensured that the cleanup costs of this situation are provided for in the agreement-in-principle on devolution that this government has signed, given that we know what the costs... Now, we have some experience at trying to clear the land of squatters. We know what the costs are, and there are many, many more on the federal lands that we may soon be responsible for. Are the costs of that accounted for in the agreement-in-principle and will the Minister be pushing for that to be accounted for in the negotiations towards a final agreement? Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'm not quite sure of what's in the contents of the agreement-in-principle as far as that is, but I can assure the Member that when we communicate and when we start making progress with devolution, that we'll do what we can to ensure that all costs to clean Crown land are included. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 153-16(6):
ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY GARDENING
AND LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been sitting here trying to figure out a way to work my agricultural policy Member's statement into a question to someone on the other side of the House. I think I'm going to direct it to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to my colleague again today and many, many times in the past, Mr. Yakeleya, talk about the cost of living regarding food in the communities. I, first of all, have to thank the government for the initiatives they have taken. There is an employee in Hay River who works for ITI. His name is Gene Hachey. He is overseeing an NWT Community Gardening Program and this can be expanded. This is one little aspect of agriculture in the Northwest Territories.

But, Mr. Speaker, I have come across a letter that has been provided to me and I would like to just read a little excerpt from it. This is from a very well-known Northerner, Ruby Jumbo, and she's saying that Somba Ke is developing a wellness plan, and during the first phase community members want to develop a three-year wellness program. As nutrition was identified as a priority, we are seeking help to investigate the possibilities of developing agriculture in our community. So I found that the Minister's questions today in response to Mr. Yakeleya were very interesting, because we sit here on our high horse and say everybody should be making healthy choices, they should be buying nutritious food, they should stay away from junk food. But the reality of it is that in a lot of the communities that are off road and in remote regions, the cost of those nutritious foods can be prohibitive, and we have communities that are now reaching to this government and saying nutrition is a priority, we think we could grow some of our own food.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if there's any correlation between the activities of his department to increase and encourage healthy eating and nutrition with the activities of ITI, for example, with regard to market gardening and growing food in the North for Northerners. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are, of course, related. The North has a very long history of agriculture throughout most of the Northwest Territories, up the valley where there is, as was indicated, rich land, and there is a resurgence of interest in many communities to take advantage of that opportunity to grow many, many crops. I was in Norman Wells

and saw the very impressive greenhouses that were up there and the variety of crops that were being grown, as well as flowers. There is a correlation between healthy living and being able to eat your produce out of a garden as a summer pastime, and root crops that you can put away that would take you far into the winter. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that there is not a community in the Northwest Territories that could not benefit from community gardens and greenhouses, and some assistance and an overarching policy of this government to encourage communities to make an effort to grow some of their own food, some of their own nutritious food. I would suggest that we do not do enough about that initiative. We don't do enough to encourage that. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, although we are in the last days of this government, again, to look at those renewable resources that could go a long way towards assisting with the health and well-being of northern residents. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The good news is, is that while this Legislature may be dissolved in the next few weeks, a lot of the good, all the good programs and all the good work that has been done by government and by this Assembly will continue on until the Assembly is elected, and that Assembly will decide if they are going to continue those initiatives or change them or supplement them.

I agree with the Member. We can always do more. Mr. Bromley has made many, many statements about the need for self-sufficiency. We all agree with that. That's why we have invested so much money in alternate energy. We are looking at biomass strategies. We have community gardening programs in ITI. We are working with Education to make the right choices with active living, and with Transportation and MACA. So, yes, these will continue and, yes, we could do more. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: It always escapes me that we, as a government, can figure out how to levelize the cost of liquor so you can buy liquor in Inuvik for the same price as you can buy it in Yellowknife, but we can't be proactive when it comes to assisting, encouraging, and aiding people in undertaking activities that would see them more ready and affordable access to healthy and nutritious food. But that's another whole topic, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to, I guess, just confirm again that going forward we will leave on the public record that as a government we can and will be more proactive about encouraging communities to be more self-reliant and to pursue the lifestyle of healthy choices and healthy food at affordable rates to address the cost of living in the North, that this will be, if not

accomplished by this government, a legacy of this government going forward. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member and I have served now in four Assemblies together. This issue has been a dominate theme in every one of those and I would suggest will continue to be a dominant theme in the 17th Assembly going forward. So we take the Member's point and assure her that this issue will be there.

There are positive things we can do, many that don't cost enormous amounts and aren't requiring new technology, just simple decisions by people to make those choices and put in those gardens and such. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 154-16(6):
NORTHLAND TRAILER PARK

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke in my Member's statement about a problem in my riding, a very large problem that's over a year old. I will address my questions today to the Premier, as my problem, when it blows up, is going to involve more than just one department. As the leader of the government, I am addressing my questions to him.

You know the people in Northland are not looking to be bailed out. They are willing to bear their fair share of a project, but they really need help and they need help in an emergent way.

We don't have any programs right now to address the situation. I have been told that in the past. But there are things we can do as a government. We invent programs all the time; we bend rules on programs all the time. So in the absence of any action by the federal government, I'd like to ask the Premier what this government will do to assist my constituents and NWT residents. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work that we have done in support of the Northland community can be said. We continue to support them. In fact, our Minister has sent correspondence in supporting that work and supporting the Municipal Infrastructure Fund through the federal government to the City of Yellowknife, for example, to help with this project. The last communications letter was sent July 18th, and we continue to try to pursue this as looking for one of the pockets of funding through the federal government to flow some of those dollars that are much needed to help with those repairs. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I do appreciate the work that the government has done in the past. But it's been a year and this problem is not going away and this problem is ever more imminent. The failure is ever

more imminent as time goes on. I'd like to say to the Premier that my question was for the future. What will we do?

I know what we have done. The residents, the constituents, Members have put forward ideas, they have been put forward by both the condo board and individual residents in an effort to get the project started anytime over the last year. The problem is nobody is listening and nobody seems open to the suggestions.

So I'd like to ask the Premier, I know there are six weeks left in office, so I know something can be done. I would like to ask the Premier if he's willing to take some action in the last six weeks to coordinate some serious action with other governments, whether they be city or federal, and to start to find a solution to this problem. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I'm glad the Member has highlighted working with other levels of government. Clearly, in this case, the work by the City of Yellowknife needs to be front and centre on this, and we, again, believe all groups are supportive of the initial package that went in, and continue to pursue that. Realizing that there has been a delay in the response coming from the federal government, we will need to step up that side of it. I know that we will take our next opportunity to address some of this with the representative for the federal government in the northern development area to see what they can do following up and continuing our support.

Aside from that, we are hoping to sit down with the city to see what they would do in stepping up to deal with this issue, but clearly we have processes in place ourselves as the Government of the Northwest Territories. For example, if it's capital funding, we would have to work with our plans going in. So to say within six weeks we can come up with a solution is quite difficult.

Clearly, this is a municipal concern. The issue of a corporation is one of those areas that hamper this. So we thought we had found a solution through the joint support to the federal government. We will continue to put the pressure we can on that side of it. I know we continue to watch as this goes on. Clearly, if there's more to be done, we would need to know where the city is in this initiative as well. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I hear the commitment that he's willing to sit down with the city, and absolutely I will be following up with that. I guess my question was more to the Premier in terms of what will this government do to facilitate a solution, apart from trying to talk to the feds who haven't been listening for 15 months. What will this government do to try and find a solution, not to give money out, but to try to assist in some of these ideas and suggestions that have been generated? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: As I was saying in my earlier response, work with the city is going to have to be undertaken to see where they are on this file and how they would see, looking at other options, how they could deal with that.

Clearly, as we've just dealt with one emergency, for example, in Norman Wells and the natural gas situation and we heard Mr. Yakeleya stand up and tell us that we shouldn't have made them go back to their coffers and the taxpayers within that community, but our policy applied and that's the way we had to look at it.

So we have to work with the city on this and we would look at that communications, opening up communications with the city to see what they would be prepared to do to try to help alleviate the situation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The time for question period has expired. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 8, oral questions, on the agenda so I can have a question today.

---Unanimous consent granted

Oral Questions (Reversion)

QUESTION 155-16(6): LACK OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE ON THE LAND

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your anticipation that I would want to have an oral question today. My question today will be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding the concerns that I raised in my Member's statement today, which is the lack of emergency services provided to people on the land or even at lodges who may be seriously injured.

Mr. Speaker, the direct question to the Minister on this particular subject is: what is he doing to fix this policy so that we do not have a serious and significant gap that our citizens are left fending for themselves when their health and certainly life could be in jeopardy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I note that in jurisdictions other than the Northwest Territories, cost for being outside the communities, if there is an emergency call-out on the land for whatever reason, are 100 percent recoverable from the folks that are involved in the incident. In our case, the policy we have is for communities and service within communities. The Member is right;

it's not an insured service, and we do not have the money or resources in our budget to close that gap at this time.

MR. HAWKINS: I'm well aware that the Minister himself has had problems with this particular policy, and as I understand it, he's even had constituents in his own riding who have had trouble by this very, I would say, cold and unwelcoming policy.

Is the Minister of Health and Social Services willing to look and see if there are ways to amend it? Because as we heard through Mrs. Groenewegen's question regarding healthy lifestyle, healthy choices, and the Minister of Health and Social Services underscored what an important and dominant theme that is for both he and governments, so what would the Minister be willing to do to help bridge the gap -- maybe not completely fill it -- and ensure that this policy gap is addressed in some form?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I've done a number of fiscal updates in this House and we've pointed out very clearly some of the challenges that we face. Today alone we've heard requests for potentially significant investments in emergency evacuations and assisting communities in situations like Northland, autism, addictions. We have a huge list of things that people want us to invest in and at the same time be fiscally responsible.

We have a budget that's fully subscribed to. The Member is asking for an increase to a program at a time when such a consideration is not possible. This year if there is an interest, there will be a business planning process that will kick into gear that the new Assembly will look at those priorities and others that they will have to decide on.

MR. HAWKINS: I'm very aware of people who have met tragic ends outside of regional municipalities, be it large communities or small communities. I can think of one particular case where one lady fell through the ice on a skidoo. The access to emergency services is very important. I'm not asking the Minister to solve all the world's problems, although that would certainly be nice, but I'm asking him to investigate and use this opportunity to investigate developing some type of program that can offer assistance. Because when people are in jeopardy on the land, whether they're skidooring, hunting, or visiting the lodges, living that active lifestyle, they shouldn't be left out in the cold to say good luck and find your way into the health centre and we'll do our best when you get here but you're on your own until you get there. All I'm asking for is a little compassion from a man who probably knows the health system a little bit better than any of us, and find a way to make something palatable for everyone.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There has been work on this issue. I've as well had some questions. This leads into an area if there's going to

be emergency search and rescue, is that the expectation that nurses or whoever is in the community will leave and fly into other communities. Are they going to be trained to do that kind of extraction? Is it a case of calling in search and rescue from the military?

There are very few places, I think, other than Yellowknife, that have, I think, the benefit of highly skilled folks in this regard. This is an issue that has some considerable perplexity. It's not just a case of saying, yes, we're going to do it and it will all happen. There's a cost. There's also finding the resources to do this. It's the type of project expansion at this point that we're not in the position, I don't think, to consider it. If the new government comes in and wants to see this as a priority and they can find the money, then I'm sure that will be looked at. For this Assembly we will be continuing on to deliver all the great many programs that we've budgeted for.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall, if memory serves me correctly, that this was an important issue when our present Health Minister wasn't the Health Minister. Now that he's Health Minister, I'm sure the theocrats have educated him about the ins and outs. All I'm asking for today is, quite simply, would the Minister be willing to take this on as an initiative that we should be looking into and seeing how we can address it and give it its fair due and consideration whereas we can get a sense of costing it out and let that sit before committee, let that sit before the Assembly, and let it decide if the cost is worth that type of coverage. Give it a chance on that particular case. Let's not put people at risk when we encourage them to live a healthy lifestyle. We should also ensure that they're protected as well. I think that's our duty here in the House.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: In fact, the Member has the chronology wrong. I had to deal with this issue, as well, with constituents and inform them of what was covered and what was not. I'd also point out that there's also an expectation that when people leave the Northwest Territories to go anywhere, if they do not have third-party coverage and they require any kind of medevac services in Alberta or any other jurisdiction, that is fully their cost. It's not covered by anybody, any government, this or any other. It is a situation where people should be very cognizant when they go, of what the risks are and what kind of protection they do have.

The Member has asked if I bring this to committee. He knows we have six days -- five days now -- left in sitting and that it's a situation that's not going to happen. It's good for discussion in this House and it's an important topic and there will be plenty of

time for those that come back to have that discussion about new priorities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Before I go on to the next Member, I'd like to recognize a couple of gentlemen in the gallery: Willard Hagen and Richard Edjericon.

The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 156-16(6):
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS
SERVICES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services in regard to mental health and addiction services, especially in my riding, and also the commitment made by governments to enhance programs and services in our communities, especially in the area of mental health and addictions.

The whole intent of the change was to ensure that we had wage parity, that we were able to provide benefits to individuals in that particular field and bring them in line with the rest of the public service. There is still a definite disparity between how people are being treated, especially people who work for NGOs like, in my case, the Ti'oonidh Healing Society. For over 10 years they've been receiving a contribution of \$70,000, which includes the wages and benefits and the operational costs of the office. A community 60 kilometres away in Tsiigehtchic, a mental health worker who has less clients received full benefits and full wages comparable to the rest of the public service.

I'd like to ask the Minister -- this issue has been around as long as I've been around here -- what are we doing to ensure that we do provide parity when it comes to people providing public services on behalf of the government.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There have been studies on this issue over the years that I'm aware of and I'm sure the Member is as well. The challenge of NGOs to offer competitive wages and some of the other benefits like pensions and sick leave. The issue of parity has not been resolved. There is a huge price tag to that.

The issue that the Member is specifically referring to, I'm familiar with that position. There is the whole issue, as well, of the positions that are run through a contribution agreement and what happens with the job descriptions, as opposed to those where they're formally put in place as indeterminate positions with the government. There is a difference between NGOs and the government, and it's a gap

that I don't see being closed anytime soon just because of the sheer cost of that particular issue.

MR. KRUTKO: Again, it does come down to a question of service. Like I stated, individuals in the community of Fort McPherson service 800 people. You have an individual in Tsiigehtchic who is serving 170 people. He's making almost twice as much as the person that's serving 800 people. I think you have to look at it in the confines of the service delivery system and the number of clients you are having to provide that service to. Would you consider a per diem ratio system of how you charge under the medical programs and services on those, like services that you charge on a per diem basis?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member raised this specific issue with me a couple of days ago. I've asked the deputy minister to get me the information so that I could get updated on the file, but I believe the circumstances are very similar to what were there when I was last Minister and the Member and I were having this discussion.

I have no quick response that I can give the Member in this House today, unfortunately.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister consider looking at some sort of dispute mechanism to resolve this issue between the parties and the person that basically is in the situation of basically doing a job, being paid way less than other types of people doing a similar arrangement, either through having that individual become a government employee providing government services? That is the situation that you're going to find yourself. If that NGO walks away, that position will have to be filled by the government as a government employee. Is that the only situation we put the employee relationship in, that you have to walk away from this service and have the government take it on and it will cost you more money to do that? Is that the only option you're leaving to the community of Fort McPherson?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As I committed to the Member when he raised this issue a number of days ago, I would get the latest briefing. The Member has articulated probably the one option, probably the main option, but I will get up to speed on the file and I'll commit to sit down with the Member and see what possible options there are over and above the current circumstance.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MOTION TO MOVE BILL 7 AND BILL 19
INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure reported yesterday on Bill 7, Community Planning and Development Act, and Bill 19, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 7, Community Planning and Development Act, and Bill 19, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, be moved into Committee of the Whole for today.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 53-16(6):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 2, 2011-2012

TABLED DOCUMENT 54-16(6):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 2, 2011-2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents entitled Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012, and Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012.

TABLED DOCUMENT 55-16(6):
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
TRUST FUND 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

As well, I wish to table the following document entitled Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report, 2010-2011.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Robert McLeod.

TABLED DOCUMENT 56-16(6):
WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION
COMMISSION 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission 2010 Annual Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 15, notices of motion. 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. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7, Community Planning and Development Act, and Bill 19, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, with Mr. Abernethy in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Today in front of us we have Bill 7, Bill 19, as well as Tabled Document 53-16(6) and Tabled Document 54-16(6). What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to proceed with Bill 7 and Bill 19 today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay. With that we'll take a short break and when we come back we'll proceed with Bill 7 and Bill 19.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to going on break, we agreed to proceed with reviews of Bill 7 and 19. We will start off with Bill 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Alright. The first thing we will do is go to the Minister responsible to introduce the bill. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I am here to present Bill 7, Community Planning and Development Act. This new legislation was developed in response to requests from municipal governments, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories, and professional community planners.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of representatives of the NWT Association of Communities and the professional planners on our Peer Review Group, who all made important

contributions at various stages to the development of this bill.

Community planning can be simple or complex, depending on the needs and desires of the community. Our aim is to have legislation that serves all municipalities, from the smallest to the largest, which enables communities to meet their visions for the orderly development of their municipalities.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We'll now go to the chairman responsible for the standing committee that reviewed the bill to make opening comments on the bill. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure held public hearings on Bill 7, Community Planning and Development Act, during the months of April and May of 2011 in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Ulukhaktok, Inuvik, and Aklavik. The clause-by-clause review with the Minister began on May 10, 2011, and concluded on August 15, 2011.

During the May 10, 2011, review of the bill with the Minister, the committee passed a motion to amend the bill by adding a provision stating that nothing in the act shall be construed as to abrogate or derogate from Aboriginal or treaty rights, that anything authorized by the act must be carried out in accordance with land claim agreements where they apply, and that land claim agreements and legislation are paramount in case of a conflict with this act.

Similar provisions are found in other Northwest Territories legislation such as the Species at Risk Act. The Minister did not concur with this amendment and so the bill was not amended. The Minister requested time to seek legal advice on the implications of the amendment.

During the August 15th conclusion of the clause-by-clause review, the Minister advised that direction has been given for the development of amendments to include similar provisions in the Interpretation Act, which applies to all NWT legislation. This legislation would come forward during the life of the 17th Assembly. The committee and the Minister did agree to one minor, non-substantive amendment during the clause-by-clause review of the bill.

Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 7, Community Planning and Development Act, to the Legislative Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 7. Individual Members

may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if I could get you to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister McLeod, if I could please get you to introduce your witnesses into the record.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have with me today to my left, Mr. Mike Aumond, deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs; Ms. Bev Chamberlin, director of lands administration; and, Mr. Mark Aitken, director of legislation division with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Are there any general comments to the opening remarks? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I did have issue with regard to the need for the abrogation and derogation clause. I think it's important to realize that this type of legislation does have an overarching effect on land claim agreements. Lands have been designated for Indian branch lands or IAB lands, better known.

We have reserves in the Northwest Territories. We also have claims that have lands within the specific boundaries that were negotiated in comprehensive claims which are called municipal lands within the confines of municipalities. I think, as we have learned, it's very difficult to try to imply or basically build a house in the Northwest Territories when it comes to IAB lands or, for that matter, block land transfers in communities to either expand your boundaries which will encroach on land claims lands adjacent to communities or along the boundaries of communities regardless if it's in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, 7(1)(a), 7(1)(b) lands, or rural and hinterlands in the land claim areas.

Mr. Chair, I think it's imperative that we do realize that this legislation will have a direct effect on the land claim agreements, the Indian branch lands in those municipalities and the status that they flow through, through the Indian Affairs branch in Ottawa. We've realized through self-government and land claim arrangements that are in place, the Aboriginal people will have land management authorities within those municipalities and the lands they will use for self-government reasons. You can't be short-sighted to assume we will put this in another act later on.

We are discussing the Wildlife Act in this House, hopefully in the next couple of days. In there, there is also an abrogation and derogation clause. Several other pieces of legislation have come through this House with abrogation and derogation clauses. So the reason that the Minister has given is not comforting to me, the people I represent or the claimant groups in the Northwest Territories. I think it's very important that we ensure the legislation we pass through this House does recognize the constitutionality of Section 35 with regard to land claims, treaty rights, and Aboriginal rights in Canada.

As a Legislature, we have that obligation and we must ensure that that is implied in whatever legislation we put forward.

Mr. Speaker, I know we gave the Minister the opportunity and the benefit of the doubt to consider such an amendment in the drafting of this legislation and by going clause by clause, but it was refused by Cabinet. I will be requesting that we reinstate that wording at some point.

I would just like to ask the Minister, for the sake of time and consideration, that you do take into consideration all these elements that I've raised and mentioned regarding the land claims agreements, municipal lands in communities, IAB lands and a requirement for those lands in communities, if anything happens you have to have a band council resolution which has to be agreed to by the band council to have any activities take place on those lands. Also, that those lands are held with special types of protection under the treaties and under the Indian treaties and under the Indian Act in Ottawa.

I would just like to know why it is that you have not taken those considerations into effect when we decide to pass this legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We did take a look at the proposed motion by the Member back in May and then we have gotten legal advice, and our position is it's basically telling us we have to obey the law.

My understanding of Aboriginal or treaty rights is they cannot be extinguished or abrogated by a legislative act. I think we all know there are only two ways to extinguish or abrogate Aboriginal or treaty rights, and one is with the consent of the Aboriginal party in the form of a modern day treaty, and the other one is an amendment to the Constitution. So we believe that the Aboriginal land claims are federal legislation and, in our opinion, would take precedence over territorial legislation. There is nothing we can do to abrogate or derogate from the Aboriginal rights. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: As a land claims negotiator with the Dene/Metis claim process, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, my main obligation was to do the land selection. Municipal land selections in the Sahtu and the Gwich'in and also in the Dene/Metis claim were a very strategic part of those land claim agreements. Lands were selected in the communities in the Sahtu, in the Gwich'in Settlement Region, for specific special purposes. They were used for rural lands, hinterlands, commercial lands, residential. Again, there was a lot of time and effort put into selecting lands in communities for these type of purposes, so that in the future there will be lands in those communities and there will be certain aspects that will apply to these lands which are unique compared to other lands in the community such as exempted lands from taxes where you don't have to pay taxes on certain lands if you don't develop the properties.

With this legislation imposing these plans, whether it's subdivisions or looking at consideration of a new residential area and imposing that on the claimant groups where they may not have an interest in developing those lands for those particular purposes but not being consulted prior to the plans to be concluded, totally undermines the whole reason for getting lands in communities in the first place through land claim agreements.

The same thing applies to lands in a lot of the communities which still exist by way of Indian branch lands. The Housing Corporation should know, and as the Minister of the Housing Corporation, how hard it really is to get land developed in our communities on IAB lands because of the special and unique status that that land has. You have to get a band council resolution from the particular band by way of a motion to do anything with those lands. Those lands still retain the status of Indian branch lands well over the life of the House.

I think it's that type of situation we are in here. We can't lose sight that you are imposing a piece of legislation that would have direct implications on those lands, and those communities and those groups are not the municipal councils of these communities. The bands are not the municipal governments in those communities or regions.

I think it's imperative that you look at this and also take into consideration, in light of the reasons that I give. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Whatever the land claim groups, present or future, settle, we intend to abide by it. We are not proposing to change anything within the land claim groups. It's just enabling the communities to make these decisions and not imposing on anybody. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Again, as we all know, most community planners and people that basically make these decisions don't come from the communities.

Most of the decisions are made at the regional...or Yellowknife on how those plans are going to be imposed and developed. How can you, without having the wording in this legislation, ensure that they take that into consideration and just assume that somebody understands the land claim agreements or somebody understands that you do have the unique situations that I mentioned? So without having the wording in this agreement, you are assuming that hiring somebody from southern Canada and coming in as a lands officer in a community will know that land claims agreements exist. But by mentioning it in the legislation, those rights will have to be considered when you look at the planning act and consider those types of developments taking place when you're implementing this type of legislation. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The department has no more community planners within the regional offices. Most of the community planning is done within the communities themselves, and if they do have someone that they bring from outside the community, I'm sure the community will school them quite quickly on the land claims. Because it's our intent, and I think it's been proven in the past, that all departments take the land claims quite seriously and there's a consultation process that needs to take place in any decisions that may have an effect on the land claims. But again I point out the fact that the land claims are federal legislation and nothing that we do in this act will extinguish any rights at all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Next on my list is Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a couple of questions along the same line of questioning as Mr. Krutko. In the communities what I'm being told by some of the homeowners that are now elders that originally go about to construct their homes on what they're referring to as treaty land and may be legally called Indian Affairs branch lands but referred to as treaty land, I'm wondering if there was a process at some point where the federal government transferred their lands to the GNWT, and if there was a process, when did this process take place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. Chamberlin.

MS. CHAMBERLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is asking about the process for the transfer of Indian Affairs branch land to the Commissioner. We've not had a request for that to happen, especially now with the negotiation of the Akaitcho claim in your area. There has been no discussion about the transfer of Indian Affairs branch land to the community. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, I have two separate situations where I'm dealing with land, and there's an elder in a HAP unit that was built on what

was essentially her cousin's land where a unit that was constructed by the Department of Indian Affairs prior to any units being constructed for use by the NWT Housing Corporation. In essence, I'm talking about the Northern Territorial Rental Program, which was actually constructed under a program called Eskimo and Indian Housing. It goes back a long way. These other units were constructed in the late '50s and early to mid-'60s and they were homes that were issued to treaty Indians. This home is now considered part of Commissioner's land, and the elder, although I don't think she pays taxes, is required to do so. But this is not a tax issue. This is an issue of trying to figure out the process of how that occurred.

I'm just going to give you the second scenario, as well, Mr. Chairman, so that I can have something more recent. I have very recently dealt with a lease, a municipal lease or a land lease or, I'm sorry, maybe it's a tax. But anyways, the lease or taxes that are paid to the GNWT on an annual basis. However, there was an indication that that unit was sitting on that same piece of land prior to 1980, and the land was then referred to Indian Affairs branch land. I'm just wondering if the department is aware of how that occurred.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Member's questions are valid. As far as the Community Planning Act, I'm not sure how it fits in. To be quite honest, I'm not well aware of the situation the Member is speaking of, but we will have a look at it and see how all this occurred and we'll communicate that to the Member.

MR. BEAULIEU: It's just my concern that when any act is passed that pertains to the town planning and any community planning and development, if it refers to land, then I would like to know that the Aboriginal governments that have not settled land claims yet, as Ms. Chamberlin said, Akaitcho, that they be afforded the full potential for obtaining lands under their land claim within the municipal boundaries and those were referring to those pieces of land as Indian Affairs branch land. But I'm aware that over a period of the last several years or even a few decades, that those lands have slowly transferred from the federal government to the territorial government, and so that the Minister said he would look into it, I am satisfied with that but I just wanted to provide more context to my questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. More of a comment for clarification, but I'll go to the Minister anyway. Minister McLeod.

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In terms of land selection for land claims self-government processes, it's a separate process. This piece of legislation doesn't really have any impact or

adverse impact one way or the other on that selection process. Through that selection process you can select Crown or Commissioner's land, so this act is really just around giving the community government some more authorities on how they want to manage which lands they currently have within their boundaries. It doesn't really have an impact one way or the other with respect to land selection. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Aumond. I don't have anybody else on my list for general comments. What is the wish of committee? If it's agreed, no further general comments. We will go to clause-by-clause review of the bill. The clause-by-clause review starts on page 9. Clause 1. Mr. Krutko.

MOTION 22-16(6):
AMEND BILL 7,
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT ACT,
CARRIED

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to move a motion that Bill 7 is amended by adding the following after section 1:

1.1 (1) For greater certainty, nothing in this act shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from Aboriginal or treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

(2) An action or thing authorized by this act must be carried out in accordance with any applicable land claims agreement.

(3) If there is a conflict or an inconsistency between a provision of this act or the regulations a provision of a land claims agreement or legislation approving, giving effect to and declaring valid a land claims agreement, the provision of the land claims agreement or legislation prevails to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. A motion is on the floor. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Krutko, as mover of the motion.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, the majority of positions I meant, but I think if you take a close look at exactly where you look at the Indian branch lands and the management of those Indian branch lands by bands in our communities. Also in regard to the municipal lands in our communities, there are special arrangements.

I find it kind of odd from the Minister and the deputy stating that they don't have anything to do with it because it's a federal land claim agreement. Those municipal lands that were selected through the land claim agreement are in our communities. There are special circumstances that you have to consider in

regard to lands in communities, regardless, for public purposes. It's spelled out in the land claims agreements. It also talks about the area of real property taxes and exemptions of certain property taxes by way of those land claim agreements.

I think also realizing that in any changes to the municipal boundaries, there's a process that this government has to go through with the land claims organizations communities by way of a special process for expropriation. You have to follow that process. It's in the constitutional land claim agreement. There's a process to expropriate lands for public purposes.

The same thing with regard to the land claims agreements where a lot of the IAB lands that exist today, I find it kind of odd that someone mentioned that there was no IAB land swap. The whole idea of land claims is to eventually eliminate IAB for land claims settlement regions and transfer to the Aboriginal governments by swapping out those IAB lands in communities and bringing them under the umbrella land claim agreements. There are certain provisions for taxation, 15-year tax holiday where the federal government will pay those taxes.

Also, like I mentioned, like Mr. Beaulieu mentioned earlier, a lot of these lands that the Housing Corporation built houses on in communities on IAB lands, those lands had to be swapped for other lands in exchange that we release that IAB land under the Housing Corporation units or you told the Housing Corporation to move those houses off those lands. That was the situation in Aklavik, where Aklavik at one time was designated a reserve status. They had a large block land transfer in Aklavik to set up a reserve back in 1958 and that reserve still exists today, and it probably still exists in other communities in the Northwest Territories.

I think it's imperative that you don't lose sight of the obligations that we have. By spelling this out in this legislation and having similar clauses that we have in other legislation that were passed through this House in regard to abrogation and derogation, it clearly identifies to the parties that are going to basically implement this legislation that that has to be taken into consideration when you develop such legislation as Community Planning and Development Act so that when you're doing your planning, when you're doing your development you realize and contemplate that those activities have to be considered and have to be looked at before any planning can be concluded or also implemented by way of the development act.

With that, I again strongly encourage other Members to support the motion. I think it is needed in the confines of this type of legislation where there is a definite conflict between the municipal governments and the band communities in those communities where those lands, regardless of who's doing the planning or who's doing the

development, you have to take into consideration these unique situations of lands.

Like I mentioned in regard to the IAB status, that is similar to almost the same status as the reserves in southern Canada. That's why you have to get a band council resolution every time you try and do something with Indian branch lands from the Housing Corporation to municipal government, or even to a band government where you have to pass a band council resolution. You have to get the legal authority to do any developments on those properties, and I think that you can't lose sight of that in the confines of this legislation.

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

MR. RAMSAY: I must say I applaud the tenacity of my colleague from the Mackenzie Delta on this issue. I will support his amendment that he's bringing forward today.

I remember back to the committee meeting and I know the government is going forward with a way to be more consistent in this area with the Interpretation Act that's going to come into play during the life of the 17th Assembly. I think we have to be consistent. We've dealt with other pieces of legislation that have this clause in it. I see nothing wrong with adding this amendment. I always say, better safe than sorry.

I'm going to support my colleague from the Mackenzie Delta in this amendment.

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

MR. BROMLEY: I find myself agreeing with the Minister that there should be no reason to include this clause in this piece of legislation. The land claims legislation, the settlement legislation has these clauses in it, and it's clear that that is the law and we know that it takes precedence over all other legislation. Unfortunately, although the Minister has suggested, I believe, that we put this in the Interpretation Act and therefore there would be even greater clarity if it was needed, the government has been totally inconsistent in applying this clause in their legislation. So we find it lacking and proposed to be lacking in this legislation at the same time that they're bringing forward legislation before this House right now where the clause is included. This sort of inconsistency makes me realize that the greater certainty is not there, because they have not shown that it's a certain thing by including it in some and others not in legislation before this House today.

I think a big part of it is Mr. Krutko's point as sponsor of this motion, that people who are actually fulfilling this legislation will not be aware of this background legislation that does take precedence in every case, and that's the certainty we're looking for here. I think the government has had a

responsibility and has failed in bringing a broad understanding by both the bureaucracy and the public, and to some extent the Aboriginal governments. I make the same complaint in bringing the same degree of understanding to their constituents, their beneficiaries about this legislation.

Certainly the general public was never included in either the land claims negotiations or its implementation and they are finding out about this piecemeal. As a result, there's a lot of unnecessary strife because they simply are not aware.

This, of course, highlights the need for courses both for the beneficiaries, obviously by Aboriginal governments, but certainly for the public and civil service by this government. There have been I know the odd ones here and there, but we need a comprehensive and consistent program there to ensure that our employees are aware of this legislation as they fulfill their duties.

I do agree with the Minister there should be no need for this clause. I think putting it into the Interpretation Act would be a good solution, once these concerns have been taken care of.

So given the inconsistency gaps and deficiencies I've noted, I support this motion while suggesting the government begin raising awareness of land claims law, followed by putting this clause into the Interpretation Act, as has been suggested, and removing it from its seemingly random use in legislation, again aiming for that consistency that is required. I will be supporting the motion.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I believe that, like my colleagues have previously indicated, there are other pieces of legislation that do have this clause and I don't see why it shouldn't be in here. I could be corrected, but I don't think the Minister disagreed either. He's just saying wait until later. Unfortunately, we're late into our government and any guarantees for the 17th Assembly is not guaranteed either, because priorities change, et cetera. For myself, as well, overarching legislation to have this clause to affect all the other clauses can be done, and I certainly look forward to that. However, I believe that the point of power is in the moment and we do have an opportunity to include this, so I certainly support the concept and I will be voting in favour.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: I, too, will be supporting this motion. I think that if it gives comfort to the individual land claims negotiations people that are concerned that sometimes we would pass an act in the House here that could adversely affect their

ability to complete negotiations, then that's something that we want.

This is something that provides clarity and, as it says in Clause 3, if there's a conflict, then this is a good way to resolve the conflict, and it's also consistent with some of the other acts where we've included this clause. I will be supporting the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: My comments are very similar to those that my colleagues have already expressed. I, too, believe that this clause is probably not necessary, but until we have the proposed amendment to the Interpretation Act passed through this House so that we have a clause which is consistent and which covers all of our legislation, I feel that it is only fair that we include it in this particular act as a whole.

I am struck by the response of the Minister and Cabinet relative to this particular suggestion that they have denied including these clauses in this act but have seen fit to include it in the Wildlife Act which is before the House. That doesn't make sense to me. I do support having a blanket application of this clause in the Interpretation Act and I think at the time that that amendment to the Interpretation Act takes place, that we should also make amendments to every act that we have and remove it from all the acts that we do have, so, as is pointed out by the Minister, we have a consistent application of the intent of these clauses. I think it specifically needs to be here, as well, because community governments will use this act in their community planning and development.

There's a sad lack of education of the NWT residents on the impact that land claims negotiations has. Many of our community government staff and/or councillors may not be fully aware of the implications of a land claims agreement. The fact that this clause is in the act, if they are looking at the act for specific information relative to community planning and development, they will then be...it will be highlighted for them that they need to also look at land claims agreements to make sure that they're not contravening something which has already been established in a land claims agreement. Until the Interpretation Act is amended and we have these clauses in the Interpretation Act so that it applies to all of our legislation across the GNWT, I support adding it to this particular bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: The amendments that Mr. Krutko brought forward seem to be in order. It seems to, for myself, give some clarity to the Community Planning and Development Act; some certainty.

Without question, when this act comes into force, the community planners not only in municipalities but Aboriginal governments are clear on where they stand. The interpretation of this amendment for myself, I'm of the opinion of the comments by Mr. Menicoche is the 17th I'm not too sure if there's going to be or how the interpretation issue will be handled with this specific wording. Today we have the ability and power to make these changes today and not leave it up to fate in the 17th. So that's my comments, Mr. Chair, and I will be supporting the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Next on my list, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on this motion, as the Government of the Northwest Territories, we've said on a number of occasions that nothing we can do could take away from the established land claims authorities that are there that are constitutionally protected in this country. We've said that and have that in some of our legislation, as pointed out. Those pieces of legislation that are included are, in fact, ones that are much larger, that effect direct impact on some of the co-management areas. The Member has raised the Wildlife Act, for example, because it directly involves a relationship with the land claims groups and Aboriginal governments. We need to be very clear on that.

There were a couple of points, just for the record, because there were a couple of points that were raised that need to be clarified for the record, so we don't have this as down in history of that point being specific.

For example, Indian Affairs branch land, I believe it's called, or IAB. When the transfers occur from the federal government, they don't come and tell us and consult with us and negotiate with us. They transfer. They have an Order-in-Council and they transfer and we end up picking up some of those pieces, whether it's the Housing Corp or other areas in the community. The times we get involved are when we work with the bands to possibly look at land exchanges within community boundaries. So for that, I know the Minister said he would get additional information on that, but just so we get it on record.

The other piece is land claim selection. Now, when land claims were negotiated and land selected within communities, those were treated in the sense that when an Aboriginal group -- and we have examples of those -- selected within community boundaries, the lands they selected were treated as any property owner in a community. Dollars were exchanged for that property and treated fee simple, I guess is the word to use, which then in community planning and development, the community would have to approach the land owners in the community about certain developments. So there is the right

and the role of a land owner in a community to deal with the community development that is being proposed or asked about. That community council/government, would have to take that into consideration.

So I wanted, for the record, to point that out. Yes, there are land selections, but when they made land selections in the community, there was an exchange of value as the claim was settled and the federal government exchanged cash for property that was provided to the Aboriginal group as part of their selection. But then that property in the community became, as a taxpaying community, part of fee simple ownership and their right to go to a community council/government and say we disagree with certain developments in this area. So that exists. I think that is why the approach was initially by the department to say it applies. Those rights are already established as fee simple title holders in our communities.

On top of that, overall as a government we clearly state that nothing we can do as the Government of the Northwest Territories can take away from. The other side is we have to be cautious to ensure that at the same time we are not, through an act of the Legislative Assembly, giving more powers or more authority than was negotiated in the land claims. So we have to be careful on that side of it too. That is why there was some caution raised at the stage as it was.

We hear, and I've heard from Members, about the inconsistencies, and I think that goes from the fact that some of our earlier pieces of legislation that were put in place when we first signed some of these agreements was we found examples of where there were inconsistencies of application. Quite clearly now, we've gone through this a number of times and as more claims are settled, we are updating our claims or legislation to recognize the rights that are established and constitutionally protected.

So I just wanted, for the record, Mr. Chairman, to put that forward. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, colleagues. Again, I'd like to state that it's not only what's in the land claim agreements. I know I spoke about IAB lands and treaty rights. I think that these conflicts can exist simply by going ahead without getting a band council motion. People have tried that in the past, and they've basically learned the hard way and they've ended up in court. I think that's what we're trying to avoid here, that we avoid a long, drawn out process, and take the time to consider those other legal binding obligations we have, whether it's through treaty entitled lands, land claim agreements or even developments adjacent to municipalities that may

have...(inaudible)...through resource development or a simple thing like expanding a municipal boundary outwards on different types of land.

That is something we have to be conscious of. We do have to ensure that whatever legislation we put forward, you have the provisions up front so people realize that that is imperative to any legislation we pass in this Legislative Assembly.

With that, I'd like to request a recorded vote, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

PRINCIPAL CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Knowlan): Mr. Krutko, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Yakeleya.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): All those opposed. All those abstaining.

PRINCIPAL CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Knowlan): Mr. Lafferty; Mr. Roland; Minister McLeod, Deh Cho; Minister McLeod, Inuvik Twin Lakes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, committee. The results of the recorded vote are: eight in favour, zero opposed, and four abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 1 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Clauses 1 through 7

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, if it's acceptable to the House, can we do this in blocks? We've got 80-something clauses, so it could save us some time. So if that's acceptable to the rest of the House, maybe we could consider that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I was going to do that anyway. Clauses 8 through 20.

---Clauses 8 through 20 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 21 through 30.

---Clauses 21 through 30 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 31 through 40.

---Clauses 31 through 40 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 41 through 50.

---Clauses 41 through 50 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 51 through 60.

---Clauses 51 through 60 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 61 through 70.

---Clauses 61 through 70 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 71 through 80.

---Clauses 71 through 80 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 81 through 88.

---Clauses 81 through 88 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Bill as a whole as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that Bill 7 as amended is ready for third reading?

---Bill 7 as a whole as amended approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay, Bill 7 as amended is now ready for third reading. Thank you, committee.

Okay, I believe it's going to be the same witnesses, Minister McLeod? No? ...(inaudible)...and escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

Is it agreed we proceed with Bill 19?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. The first thing we'll do is we'll get the Minister responsible to introduce the bill. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, I am here to present Bill 19, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act. This act fulfills a commitment made by the Premier of the Northwest Territories, who was a signatory of the Agreement on Internal Trade (1994).

That agreement was signed by Canada's First Ministers in July 1994, to reduce barriers to the movement of persons, goods, services, and investments within Canada. The objectives of the reforms in the agreement are to harmonize laws and develop simplified, uniform cost of credit disclosure requirements to reduce compliance costs and provide uniform consumer protection across Canada.

Changing patterns of credit use among Canadians resulted in the need to modernize laws governing credit. This act will apply to a wide range of credit arrangements and leases in the Northwest Territories, and will set out specific disclosure requirements for all forms of consumer credit.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister McLeod. We'll now go to the chairman of the standing committee responsible that reviewed the bill to make committee comments. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure met on August 16, 2011, to review Bill 19, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act. Following the public hearing and clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 19 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 19. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Would the Minister responsible like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Sergeant-at-Arms, if I could get you to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Thank you, Minister McLeod. If I could get you to introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today I have Mr. Mike Aumond, deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs; Laura Gareau, director of corporate affairs with MACA; and Kelly McLaughlin, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister McLeod. General comments on the bill, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of general comments on Bill 19. There is a section, I think it's 31, that talks about reporting. I had questions at committee about that. I got a response from I believe it was the deputy minister and the Minister that it wouldn't cause an administrative burden on the various lending agencies that the government has, such as the BDIC, student financial assistance and ITI. Obviously it looks like it's going to pass. You know,

next year or the year after, are the departments, BDIC or ITI coming forward looking for new positions to deal with billing or making statements on a monthly basis?

I just don't want to see us again creating an administrative burden for ourselves when we don't really need to. That was my big fear, Mr. Chairman. I just want to put that on the record again. I will be watching closely as things unfold. Hopefully I'm back next time to keep an eye on things, but thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Any more general comments? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I had raised concerns about people who avail themselves of payday loans who are ending up getting charged more than is legally correct for loans, and it was discovered sort of incidentally through associated court cases. This legislation came forward and I am happy to see that it does profile that and address it in the Northwest Territories.

I think especially payday loan-type companies can, through various fees and charges, interest rate applications, end up overcharging people accessing these lendings. Typically, a lot of these people will not have the skills or the inclination to read the fine print and that's often where these charges are. So it will be critical for clients who use these services to be provided the information in this bill in a plain language form to ensure that they, indeed, understand the law and that consumer protection is achieved. It's on that basis that I just want to hear the Minister confirm that that communication plan is in place, and that those materials will be provided and readily accessible at all companies providing these sorts of services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When this act comes into force and the regulations are drafted by April 1, 2012, we will have communications materials available, not only to help the institutions themselves but also with the purpose for making it easier for the public to understand the transactions they are entering into. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Aumond. General comments. What is the wish of committee? No more general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Detail? Does committee agree that we proceed through a clause-by-clause review of Bill 19?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): There are a substantial number of clauses. Committee agree that we do the clauses in bulk?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, committee. We'll do that. We'll start with clauses 1 through 10.

---Clauses 1 through 10 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 11 through 20.

---Clauses 11 through 20 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 21 through 30.

---Clauses 21 through 30 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 31 through 40.

---Clauses 31 through 40 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 41 through 50.

---Clauses 41 through 50 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Clauses 51 through 56.

---Clauses 51 through 56 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that Bill 19 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 19 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, committee. Bill 19 is now ready for third reading. Mr. Minister, if I could please get you to thank your witnesses and I'll get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort them out. Thank you.

What is the wish of committee? Mr. Ramsay.

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

---Carried

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: May I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 7, Community Planning and Development Act, and Bill 19, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted, and that Bill 19 is ready for third reading, and that Bill 7 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 21: AN ACT TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 21 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

BILL 20: VITAL STATISTICS ACT

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 20, Vital Statistics Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 20 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Friday, August 19, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.:

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

18. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act
- Bill 23, Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act

19. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 9, Wildlife Act
- Bill 10, Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act
- Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Deh Cho Bridge Act
- Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act
- Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act
- Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act
- Tabled Document 53-16(6), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012
- Tabled Document 54-16(6), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2011-2012

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 7, Community Planning and Development Act
- Bill 10, Cost of Credit Disclosure Act

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, August 19, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

