



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1st Session

Day 1

15th Assembly

HANSARD

Thursday, December 11, 2003

Pages 1 - 14

The Honourable David Krutko, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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(Mackenzie-Delta)

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(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

Hon. Joe Handley
(Weledeh)
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Mr. Paul Delorey
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Hon. Michael McLeod
(Deh Cho)

Mr. Bobby Villeneuve
(Tu Nedhe)

Hon. Charles Dent
(Frame Lake)

Mr. Kevin Menicoche
(Nahendeh)

Mr. Norman Yakeleya
(Sahtu)

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(Hay River South)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	1
OPENING ADDRESS	2
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	2
MR. MENICOCHÉ ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF NAHENDÉH.....	2
HON. HENRY ZOE ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF NORTH SLAVE.....	2
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF HAY RIVER SOUTH.....	3
MR. RAMSAY ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF KAM LAKE.....	3
HON. FLOYD ROLAND ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF INUVIK BOOT LAKE.....	4
MR. VILLENEUVE ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF TU NEDHE.....	4
MR. YAKELEYA ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF SAHTU.....	4
MR. HAWKINS ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE.....	5
MR. BRADEN ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF GREAT SLAVE.....	6
HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF THEBACHA.....	6
HON. JOE HANDLEY ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF WELEDEH.....	6
MR. POKIAK ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF NUNAKPUT.....	7
MR. DELOREY ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF HAY RIVER.....	7
HON. BRENDAN BELL ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH.....	8
MS. LEE ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF RANGE LAKE.....	8
HON. CHARLES DENT ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF FRAME LAKE.....	8
MR. ALLEN ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF INUVIK TWIN LAKES.....	9
HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD ON APPRECIATION TO CONSTITUENTS OF DEH CHO.....	9
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	9
NOTICES OF MOTION	12
2-15(1) - APPOINTMENT OF PREMIER.....	12
3-15(1) - RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS.....	12
4-15(1) - APPOINTMENTS TO THE STRIKING COMMITTEE.....	12
5-15(1) - APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SPEAKER.....	12
MOTIONS	13
1-15(1) - ELECTION OF SPEAKER.....	1
2-15(1) - APPOINTMENT OF PREMIER.....	13
3-15(1) - RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS.....	13
4-15(1) - APPOINTMENTS TO THE STRIKING COMMITTEE.....	13
5-15(1) - APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SPEAKER.....	13

ORDERS OF THE DAY13

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, December 11, 2003****Members Present**

Mr. Allen, Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Hawkins, Honourable David Krutko, Ms. Lee, Honourable Michael McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya, Honourable Henry Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

RIGHT REVEREND JOHN SPERRY: Let us pray. This is the first day of the First Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. We gather in firm acknowledgement of the awesome responsibility of its membership in providing good government for your people and mindful of the trust they have clearly expressed in these whose election has brought them to this place today. Grant your blessing upon each so called to leadership among us. May wisdom and insight, courage and high resolve, truth and justice inspire all their counsels and decisions, that among all our people through this territory, a true reflection of Your Son's Kingdom of peace and justice be established. Amen.

---Drumming and Singing

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Please be seated. Members, it is my duty to inform you that the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Glenna Hansen, is not prepared to address this House until such time as you have elected a Speaker. I would now like to call for a motion to elect the Speaker. The honourable Member for Frame Lake.

Motion 1-15(1): Election Of Speaker, Carried

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that the Honourable David Krutko, of the electoral district of Mackenzie Delta, do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Thank you. Are there any further motions? There being no further motions, I, therefore, declare that the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, David Krutko, has been elected as Speaker of the House. I have requested the mover and the seconder of the motion to please escort the Speaker to the Chair.

---Carried

---Applause

Speaker's Opening Remarks

SPEAKER (Hon. David Krutko): Merci beaucoup, mes amis. Honourable colleagues, drin gwinzii and good afternoon. I wish to express my gratitude for the confidence you have demonstrated by choosing me as your Speaker. It is with a great deal of pride that I accept the honour of being your Speaker for this, the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

My first obligation is to give you my commitment to ensure that the rights and privileges of all Members will be upheld and to ensure you are each able to carry out your duties.

The most important and fundamental right is the freedom of speech in your debates and freedom from interference in carrying out your duties.

I can assure you that I will do my best to ensure that these rights are upheld, as well as all the other rules and procedures that this House has adopted.

At this time, I would also like to acknowledge the efforts and steady hand of my predecessor, Mr. Tony Whitford...

---Applause

...who has set a very high standard for me to follow. It was a very great pleasure and a privilege to have served as Deputy Speaker to Mr. Whitford, and for a short time to Speaker Sam Gargan in the 13th Legislative Assembly.

I am sure you will all join me in extending our thanks to Mr. Whitford for the many years of dedicated effort and service he gave to his constituents and particularly for the admirable performance of his speakership duties within this Chamber.

On a personal note, I would like to take the time now to thank the constituents of Mackenzie Delta who were the first to place their trust in me by electing me to the 13th, 14th and now the 15th Legislative Assembly and who even now, I am confident, will support me in my new role and responsibility as Speaker.

I want to assure them that my accepting the position of Speaker will in no way diminish my efforts to serve each and every one of my constituents. I want them to be aware that I will carry that out to the best of my ability.

I would like to acknowledge the people most important to all of us: our families; our wives, husbands, partners and children. We must all strive to strike that balance between our work here at the Legislative Assembly and our families at home, and we would certainly not be here today without their support.

On this first sitting date of the 15th Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to note that this year also marks the 10th anniversary of our Legislative Assembly building we are presently in. It's truly a place of the people that all northerners can be proud of.

As we begin our business on behalf of our people, I wish to ask all Members to pause and reflect on the tasks before us. We are still a new and vibrant territory, in a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be here as the chosen representatives of our constituents. It is an honour that is bestowed on so very few people. As a legislature, we are facing many critical decisions in the days and years ahead. There are

many decisions made in this House. We may not always agree on these decisions, however, we must remember to always treat each other with respect, dignity, compassion and understanding.

On your behalf, I would like to thank the Right Reverend John Sperry for being our chaplain today. It is always a pleasure to have you with us. Thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge the fine performances of the Detah Drummers and Sir John Franklin High School Choir led by Mr. Bill Gilday.

In conclusion, my ability to preside over this House ultimately rests in your hands and I will continue to work hard to maintain the trust and confidence that you have placed in me today.

Mr. Clerk, is Her Honour the Commissioner prepared to enter the Chamber and address the Assembly?

---Singing of O Canada

ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS

Commissioner's Opening Address

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to welcome you to the First Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. I would also like to welcome members of the public with us today in the gallery and those watching on television.

I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. Krutko, on your election as Speaker. Members of this House have selected well and have bestowed upon you the heavy responsibility of ensuring that the rights and privileges of all Members are upheld, to ensure freedom of speech in debate and freedom from interference as each of you carries out your duties. You are charged with ensuring the rules and procedures of this House are followed so democracy prevails. I wish you the best during the life of this Assembly and have every confidence you will be successful.

The Northwest Territories is an exciting place at this time. We have this new Assembly. Land claims and self-government agreements are being negotiated and finalized.

We are on the edge of major resource developments. The years ahead will be challenging and rewarding. Each of you, as Members of this 15th Legislative Assembly, carry into this House the hopes and aspirations of your constituents and all people of the Northwest Territories. Each of you has the responsibility of representing your constituents and ensuring that the government does its best to serve all those who live in this great territory.

Mr. Speaker, Members of this House will face challenges during the life of the Assembly. My best wishes are extended to all Members. I am confident all will serve the people of the Northwest Territories to the best of their ability and will make a difference. I wish you all Godspeed in your deliberations.

Mr. Speaker, before declaring open this First Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly, I would like to invite all

Members and visitors in the gallery to a reception in the Great Hall when the House adjourns and to invite all to stay for the swearing in of the Executive Council at 4:00 p.m.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I now declare open the First Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Nahendeh

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I'm very thankful and grateful to the people for electing me as their MLA, and I would like to say...(Translation ends)

...to the very important office of Speaker. I also want to congratulate all the new and returning Members. It has been a pleasure to get to know you over the last few days. In particular, congratulations to Premier-elect Mr. Handley and other Members of Cabinet. I look forward to working with you over the next four years. Some of you mentioned open-door policies in your speeches yesterday, and you can be sure I will be taking you up on that.

I am very honoured to be here today as the elected representative of Nahendeh. To my constituents who put their trust in me by sending me here, I would like to express my sincere gratitude. Throughout the campaign I spent a lot of time visiting with you and hearing your concerns, and I thank you for sharing your thoughts and ideas with me. I have not forgotten what I heard from you, but if I do I'm sure you will be quick to remind me. It is a privilege for me to be your MLA and I will do my best to use my strength and abilities to represent you.

To my family and friends and all the hard-working people who put a lot of effort into my campaign answering phones, handing out buttons, putting up posters and giving me your support, thank you for believing in me. I also express gratitude for the candidates that were not successful but had the courage and strength to pursue the seat of this riding.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nahendeh, I would also like to thank Mr. Jim Antoine for his three terms of service dedicated to us as an elected MLA.

I send my greetings to the residents of Jean Marie River, Trout Lake, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte, Wrigley and Fort Simpson. I look forward to seeing you again soon and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' Statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of North Slave

HON. HENRY ZOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my constituents of Behchoko, Gameti, Wekweti and Wha Ti for electing me as your MLA. I would like to thank them. As I stand here today I will represent you and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

When I went into your communities, you heard what I had to say. The things that I promised to work on, I will work on them for you for the next four years. Not only that, but when I campaigned in the communities, I had mentioned that my door will always be open and that will be the same as I promised.

Mr. Speaker, not only that but there are a lot of people who supported me from my communities by travelling with me to communities and putting up posters and signs. I would like to thank every one of them. I would also like to thank my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly for electing me yesterday to be a Cabinet Member. I would like to thank you for supporting me and trusting me to do the job.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my family, my wife and my daughter. They stood by me through the election. I would like to thank my wife and my daughter with my heart. I want to express my sincere thanks...(Translation ends)

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is requesting unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? No, there aren't. You have unanimous consent.

HON. HENRY ZOE: (Translation) Thank you. As Christmas is approaching, I would like to wish everyone in my constituency and fellow Members and Mr. Speaker a very Merry Christmas. I would say thank you, Merry Christmas and thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Hay River South

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to speak about the 15th Assembly and those who will serve in it.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to thank the constituents of Hay River South for electing me to serve for this my third term in the Assembly. I want to tell them that I'm here to serve everyone.

It's been a busy few days since we gathered back here, welcoming former Members, meeting new Members and selecting colleagues to serve in positions of leadership. I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election and I wish you well in your new role. I would like to congratulate the honourable Member for Weledeh in his successful bid for Premier, and I wish him and his new Cabinet a productive and rewarding term.

I'm impressed with the new Members who were elected to this Assembly. It's a relatively young group and already I see much promise and potential. The average age of the

Assembly seems to be getting younger all the time, or maybe it's just that I'm getting older all the time.

---Laughter

I'm looking forward to the next four years. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but it promises to be an exciting time in the history of the political, economic and social development of the North. I'm looking forward to exploring ways of working effectively together. Within the context of consensus government there is room for creativity, innovation and putting this Assembly's own signature on how we want to accomplish our objectives on behalf of the people of the North. There are some emerging themes about the style that I briefly want to mention and hopefully will find support to develop more in the days ahead. Everyone elected to this Assembly is a leader in their own right. Everyone comes with unique backgrounds, experience and skills, and I want this Assembly to display respect for these talents and abilities through true consensus and inclusive leadership. We are only 19 Members, we need to harness and engage the energy and enthusiasm of all Members to achieve the best outcomes for our people. I want to see us embrace this inclusive leadership. We need to set an example of it amongst ourselves and further extend it to the way in which we work with other governments and community leaders. When we do this, Mr. Speaker, the potential for the Northwest Territories will be unlimited. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Ramsay, Member for Kam Lake.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Kam Lake

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very honoured and excited at being here with all of my colleagues and the folks in the gallery on opening this First Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

I want to start off my Member's statement by saying thank you to my family: my mom, my dad, my fiancée Amanda, and my brothers who are all very supportive. I would also like to thank the constituents of the riding of Kam Lake for their vote of confidence in me to do this job on their behalf. It was an interesting and hard-fought campaign. I wanted to thank Mr. Bill Aho and Mr. Steve Petersen for running in this election and participating in this important democratic process. I also wanted to thank my campaign manager, Mr. Brian Desjardins, and my official agent, Mr. Brad Anstey, and all my campaign workers and supporters for all their help. Without them it wouldn't have been possible.

To Mr. Krutko, Mr. Handley and the new Cabinet-elect, congratulations. Congratulations are also in order for all the new Members and returning Members to this House on becoming Members of this new Legislative Assembly.

I am certainly looking forward to working and learning from each and every one of you to ensure that we govern this territory to the best of our ability. I'm looking forward to a prosperous four-year journey with you, my colleagues. When we all give our best and do our part, we will see some positive results. We cannot afford to get

off track. We have momentum on our side and what we do with that momentum will be up to us.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Member for the riding of Kam Lake, Mr. Tony Whitford. I know he served in the capacity as Speaker in the last Legislative Assembly. Those are big shoes to fill and I certainly am honoured to be the representative for Kam Lake, to get to work for the constituents that live in this riding.

I also wanted to thank the staff -- Mr. Mercer and his professional team -- for inviting us, especially the new Members, into the Legislative Assembly with open arms. Much appreciated and thank you very much. Also again I just wanted to say thanks again to the constituents of Kam Lake. I certainly promise to do this job to the best of my ability and look forward to a very prosperous four years. Thank you very much and Merry Christmas.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Inuvik Boot Lake

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start as well by congratulating everybody on becoming Members of the 15th Legislative Assembly. I would like to send a big heartfelt thank you back to all the constituents of Inuvik Boot Lake for returning me to this Assembly for the third time, and to my family for their support. I just want to let the Members of Inuvik Boot Lake know that even though I will take on a different role in the 15th Legislative Assembly, I intend to continue to work hard on their issues that they bring forward, ensuring that we continue to work on all the issues that are brought forward in a fair and effective manner. I would like to again wish all those back home a very Merry Christmas, and I hope to see them there as I return home, hopefully tomorrow. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Tu Nedhe

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate you, too, on your appointment as the Speaker of the House. I would also like to thank and congratulate the Premier-elect, Mr. Joe Handley and his new Cabinet. I'm sure they will do a good job in the next four years and I'm looking forward to working with them all.

I would like to acknowledge the fine performance of the Detah Drummers and the St. Pat's Choir.

I would like to start off by thanking all my constituents, my campaign team for the good job that they did, and especially my family for instilling the confidence and trust and having faith in me to be the representative for Tu Nedhe in the 15th Legislative Assembly.

During my campaign, I had the opportunity to speak with many of my constituents, listen to their concerns and, more importantly, seek their advice on how to make their

lives better and the lives of everybody in the NWT. During the 15th Legislative Assembly, I intend to work hard toward resolving the issues that have been raised by my constituents and by the Members-elect over the past week in working toward improving the lives and the quality of life of all the residents and constituents of the NWT. I realize that in order to accomplish this we all have to work together and take a unified approach in resolving issues that are of common interest to us all. Things like housing, education, health, economic development, not to mention partnerships with aboriginal governments, land claim negotiations and devolution which are all a common interest to all Members of this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we, the 15th Legislative Assembly, as diverse and distinct as the regions we all represent, can and will plan, construct and build a vision for the NWT that supports and works toward a prosperous future; a vision that has the support and the consent of all our aboriginal governments, community governments and the federal government. A vision that encourages everyone full participation in the exercise of our independence and wealth, so that at the end of the day we can all be proud of our accomplishments and realizing our commitments to our constituents, to the people of the NWT and Canada.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, again I have to say that I look forward to working with all my colleagues over the next four years. I am optimistic that we are all going to prosper from the vast knowledge and the respect and the privilege that we all share for one another. I also want to wish all my constituents...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Villeneuve. Your time has expired.

MR. VILLENEUVE: I seek unanimous consent to finish off my three words.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent to conclude.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you. Again, Mr. Speaker, just to finish off, I just want to wish everybody in the gallery, especially my constituents, the Legislative Assembly Members and staff and the NWT residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how long I've waited to say these few words.

---Laughter

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, and also the Premier-elect and the Ministers. Congratulations to my fellow honourable MLAs in this Assembly.

I rise as a rookie MLA for my home region and the Sahtu constituency. However, I'm a veteran in northern politics. I am honoured to be here today. I thank my supporters in my campaign, the elders who gave me advice, my family and the residents of the Sahtu who voted for me to be their elected representative. I would also like to thank Stephen Kakfwi on behalf of the Sahtu people, for his many years of service to them as their MLA. I look forward to working with all the residents of the Sahtu and keeping an open-door policy.

Mr. Speaker, I will be presenting the Sahtu vision that was outlined to me by my constituents. We have been facing some challenges that have not been addressed by past governments. This is a good group of people in this Assembly here. I believe that over the next four years we will give the attention to these issues that they deserve.

We in the Sahtu are fortunate that our region is wealthy in culture, resources and languages. However, I am concerned about the wellness and the welfare of my constituents. My communities have concerns about health care, education improvement, affordable housing and a lack of elders' assistance. I'm looking forward to working with my region to address and to resolve these issues that continue to linger. We are going to work on a comprehensive regional wellness strategy that includes the people at the community level. The last government did not address the support for victims, witnesses and their families who are going through a current criminal trial of sexual abuse in Inuvik. One of my goals in coming here is to raise the profile of the residential school issues in the Northwest Territories, because the majority of my region has been involved in those trials and through the alternative dispute resolution experience.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed pipeline route runs through the Sahtu. We have gone through the experience of the Norman Wells expansion project, an experience we do not want to repeat again. This time, the first ones to benefit will be our people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to finish off my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, honourable Members. This time, the first ones to benefit will be our people. We will not stand by and watch the benefits pass us by like the last time a pipeline passed through our land. We need to plan for these types of development such as the pipeline, hydro and upgrading our road systems.

I support the self-government initiatives that will be going on in our region and that people are striving for. We are just beginning to build the foundation of the Sahtu region that will see self-sufficiency through the efforts and the cooperation of claimants and community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for the support of the Legislative Assembly and the government to assist me to move my constituency towards positive goals and objectives. Many of my colleagues from around the NWT have shared that they have heard similar concerns from their people, so I think we will have many common goals. As I said earlier,

this is a good group of people here, and I look forward to working with you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank some of the people who didn't make it to this Christmas; young people in my region and older people in my region who didn't make it to this Christmas. I want to say prayers for the people. I want to wish people in the Northwest Territories, the old people, a happy Christmas holiday and a prosperous New Year. God bless you wherever you be. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Yellowknife Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this is my first statement, I may appear nervous. In my political history whenever I saw a crowd this large it always made me nervous, so I'm very nervous today. I must say that upfront.

Mr. Speaker, may I congratulate you, as well as our new Premier-elect, on your positions as well as your acclamations to your positions. You are both going to be our shepherds into our new future. It's going to be a unique journey, and we will be looking to you both to teach us and carry us forward.

To Mr. Handley -- Premier Handley, I should say -- I would like to bring echoes of trust and support from the Yellowknife Centre constituency. Your leadership role is something our community is looking forward to, and we know and trust that you will lead us well in the next Assembly. Mr. Handley, I do want to say that it will be an honour serving in the Handley Government, this 15th Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, it's with a great deal of pride and honour that I thank all of the constituents of Yellowknife Centre for their trust and confidence. I did promise them that I will work hard and I promise that I would make sure that this mandate would be a source of pride for all of them to remember.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that my victory in the Yellowknife Centre riding was not an easy one. I will tell you clearly today, sir, that each one of those candidates was a winner, regardless of the outcome. I believe there were some good fights fought and they worked hard. Sorry, my apologies for being nervous.

Mr. Speaker, even on my coldest days I have to tell you most honestly that there were many warm faces and many warm hearts that kept us going. Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the special support of my wife Susan, and my son McKinley Man-Lung. If it wasn't for their support to allow me to follow my dreams, I can't say where I would be today.

I also would like to follow up with recognizing some of the special members from my team. There was Larry Pineda, Cito Domingo, Tina Rivera, my parents Kim and Terry Hawkins. I also have to pass out a special thanks to my

chief engineer Winnebago driver Daryl Dolynny and my campaign strategist Paul Bachand.

Mr. Speaker, my heart tells me that the burden of success will be an element for all of us to participate wholly together in as a team in this next Assembly. I believe we all have a vested interest in its success if we work together.

Mr. Speaker, may I continue my statement?

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

MR. HAWKINS: May I thank all of my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I believe we can all work together in this success and build a great North that we can all be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in Fort Simpson. I've danced in the friendship circle. I came to high school here in Yellowknife and I lived at Akaitcho Hall. I've been a Yellowknife city councillor and now I have a great source of pride being able to say I'm a father, a husband and now an MLA for Yellowknife Centre. My dreams are coming true and I believe I have many years of my journey still to continue, but I thank the many people who have helped me and brought me this far.

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot of life experience and I believe in community and family values and I hope that will be a significant asset in this leadership circle with all our friends here today.

Mr. Speaker, before I close my statement I just want to especially recognize once more, I'll start off first by saying I'd like to say adieu to the former Member of Yellowknife Centre, Jake Ootes. I don't see him here today. I did look. I want to thank him for his many years of service. Once again, I want to thank my constituents of Yellowknife Centre for the privilege of being here and, again I want to stress, many thanks to my wife Susan, and my son McKinley, who I love very much. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Bill Braden.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Great Slave

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to add my congratulations and express my faith and trust in you and our Premier-elect and the Members of the Cabinet-elect, whom we will be affirming later on in this 15th Assembly.

I am honoured to have the privilege to serve for a second term as the Member for the riding of Great Slave. Mr. Speaker, I'm here to help build on the foundations of our young territory. I want to help build even better ways of delivering government to our people and strengthen the links of our consensus system among the First Nations, among the communities and among every voter across the NWT.

Later on today, Mr. Speaker, we're going to be affirming the choices we made yesterday and today, and I think Members will agree with me that we're all very grateful

that this whole period of elections is just about over, and that there will be very progressive and positive times ahead, Mr. Speaker. We have a great opportunity to show innovation and show confidence in the remarkable future that's before us and I want to state my pledge to continue to work to the very best of my ability on behalf of this legislature and the people of Great Slave. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Thebacha

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Legislative Assembly is that my best and rather exclusive body and I would like to congratulate all of my colleagues who have been sent here by their constituents to represent their interests over the next four years. The last four days have shown me that I believe we're off to a very good start and we have the makings of a very productive Assembly.

I would like, as well, to congratulate, Mr. Speaker, yourself, Premier Handley, Cabinet colleagues and all those who have been put into positions of trust and responsibility as committee Chairs, Caucus Chairs and such.

This is my third opportunity to stand here at the start of a Legislative Assembly and this time I would once again like to thank my constituents. I would like to thank my family, my friends and my loved ones who have stuck by me through many difficult times. I'm here and I committed in my campaign to be a voice for everybody. I commit to do that not only for my constituents, but for all the people of the Northwest Territories.

As we are in the midst of the Yule Tide season and we'll all soon be going back to our homes, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the people of the Northwest Territories who have assembled here today and across the land, a very happy, safe Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Weledeh

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to congratulate you on your election as Speaker. The words that you spoke today, the directions that you've given us will be taken very seriously and we certainly look forward to working under your guidance. I'd also like to welcome all the returning Members and a special welcome and congratulations to the new Members of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the people of Weledeh for their unanimous support for me to represent them for another four years, at least. I want to have a special thank you to my campaign committee and all of the workers and volunteers and advisors who were all geared up for a good campaign. I appreciate the work that you have done

and now we have to figure out what to do with all those buttons. I will not disappoint you, my constituents in Weledeh.

I also want to say thank you to all of the people from all parts of the Territories who have given me words of support as I considered the responsibilities of Premier. Again, I want to say mahsi cho, migwich (sic), thank you. I will do everything in my power to make sure that all of our lives are a little bit better as a result of the 15th Assembly.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, to my wife Theresa, my family, my friends, what can I say except thank you for your great support. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Nunakput, Mr. Calvin Pokiak.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Nunakput

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations on your election as Speaker and to Premier Handley on his election as Premier. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my wife Lucille, and my sons, Bertram and Darren -- you'll have to excuse me, I'm getting emotional right now -- and my daughter Letitia. Without their full support and commitment over the next four years I would not have considered running in this election. Thank you to them very much. I would like to thank the constituents of Holman, Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk for electing me to represent them as their MLA for Nunakput.

The constituents of Nunakput are the true winners because my voice is their voice in this legislature. I will be back home pretty soon visiting them to talk to them again and raise the concerns and issues that they told me to bring up in the legislature in the new year.

Thanks also to my brother, Charles Pokiak -- he was my campaign manager and official agent -- and the 15 individuals who signed the nomination form for me to run in this election. It showed that they had the confidence in me to represent the people of Nunakput.

I also would like to say thank you to Vince Steen for running a good campaign and challenge. I wish Vince Steen and his family all the best in the future.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, congratulations to all the elected and acclaimed MLAs in the House today. Together we can make a difference for our constituents and for the NWT. To my constituents, as I was campaigning, remember: Cal is your pal. Mahsi, kuyananni, thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Hay River North

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to start out by saying how extremely pleased I am to be back here in this wonderful Chamber with yourself and all of my colleagues. I want to congratulate you on your successful campaign for Speaker. I know that you will do a good job over the next four years. I also want to

congratulate Mr. Handley and the rest of the Cabinet Ministers on their successful election and I look forward to the swearing-in ceremony later on this afternoon.

It has been said many times, Mr. Speaker, that when you look at the big picture, very few of us are fortunate enough to make it here to represent the people of the Northwest Territories. I want to let everybody know that I certainly feel very privileged to be here and I do not take these responsibilities lightly.

I would like to recognize some very special people in my life that have helped me make it here and that continue to support me every day. I want to especially thank my wife Davida, and my entire family: my daughters, Michelle, Monique and Katrina, and my son Darcy, and also my brother Francis, and his wife Maryanne in Hay River. They continuously support me and without them it would be very hard to do this job. I also want to thank my official agent, Andy Taylor, and my campaign manager, Dawna O'Brien, and all the volunteers that were prepared to put up a hard fight this time around to get me elected again. Unfortunately, I guess in a way, we were not able to carry on a full campaign because I was acclaimed, but I want to thank all of my constituents for acclaiming me to this, the 15th Legislative Assembly. I want to assure my constituents that although they had a vision for me that may have been a little bit bigger and better things in this Assembly, I want to assure each and every one of them that I am here for them, that I will continue to address their issues with the same vigour and determination that I demonstrated over the last four years. I want to continue to do that over the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, while we are here planning our political agendas life goes on in our communities. I want to take a moment to recognize a few very special constituents of mine, a very dear friend of mine and a person who follows politics very closely. I was in the hospital in Yellowknife here visiting him; Mr. Red McBryan. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? No nays. You have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've said, I was visiting a very dear friend of mine and a very well-known northerner, Mr. Red McBryan, who is recovering from a slight heart attack in the hospital here in Yellowknife. I want to wish him a speedy recovery and I look forward to seeing him back in Hay River.

I also want to pass my condolences on to another very dear friend of mine, Ms. Marianne Carriere, who passed away on November 29th in Hay River. I want to pass my sincere condolences to her husband John, and their entire family. I look forward to being back in Hay River on Saturday to spend some time with them.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to pass some good wishes to a couple of senior curling teams who are heading up to Whitehorse today to represent the Northwest Territories in the NWT/Yukon playdowns. I want to wish them all the best in Whitehorse and a safe journey and I want to wish everybody in Hay River and all the folks in the gallery a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statement. The Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Yellowknife South

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations again on your election as Speaker. I'd like to first start off by congratulating all of my colleagues in this House on their respective elections. As Mrs. Groenewegen pointed out, indeed, the average age is getting younger in the House. I think it's a good thing. I'm certainly impressed with the new Members. There's a lot of talent and dedication in this room. It's been a nice start in the last few days and I know the public will certainly be impressed with this new group. I think they're going to do great things, we're going to do great things and it's going to be a good Assembly.

I'd like to thank the constituents of Yellowknife South for having the confidence to send me back here. The acclamation, as I've said before, was a surprise, but certainly an honour. I want to let you know that with my election to Cabinet, my constituency work will absolutely not diminish. I give you my assurance on that.

Let me also thank all the people who worked on my campaign, my campaign team. I can't point everybody out, but I wanted to send a special thanks to MaryAnne Woytuik, Betty Anne Windsor, to all the staff at the Genesis Group, the Simpson family and let me also thank my family for their continued love and support: my wife Jill, my daughter Emily -- who can't talk about support, but I'm sure it's there -- my brother and sister, my parents, all of whom still live in the Northwest Territories. That's something that I'm very proud of.

I'd also like to thank my colleagues for having the confidence to elect me to Cabinet. I assure you that I take very seriously this idea, this concept, this new era of consensus government and will be very proud to help you on behalf of your constituents in this regard.

Lastly, I don't know if I'm letting the cat out of the bag, but to our two new Caucus Chairs, Mr. Menicoche and Mr. Yakeleya, I'm certainly very proud that you were elected. I know that you believe in partnerships and I know that means that this Caucus will certainly have a great future.

To all the residents of the Northwest Territories, Merry Christmas.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Range Lake

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to express my sincere congratulations to you, the Premier and the new Cabinet on being elected to your offices. I look forward to working with you. I would also like to congratulate all the new and returning Members.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to use this, my very first statement of this Assembly, to also thank the constituents of Range Lake for sending me back here the second time around.

I'm sure I speak for all Members, Mr. Speaker, in this House when I say what a singular honour and privilege it is to be elected by the public at large and to be given the mandate to serve them in this honourable place. As I walk through the halls of this great place of meeting, I continue to hear the voices of my constituents which have guided me before and I'm sure will guide me throughout the days and months to come.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many voices out there that we need to hear -- voices of small and large business owners, voices of women and men, elders and youth, aboriginal and non-aboriginal, the weak and the sick -- whose voices we must hear and act upon. I understand my mandate, Mr. Speaker, for the next four years is to bring life to these voices and to work with my colleagues in and out of this Chamber to develop solutions to their concerns. I also appreciate that behind you, Mr. Speaker, and the 18 Members of this House sit some 43,000 other voices of our territory which also must come to life and be acted upon.

As I begin this task once again in earnest today, it is with the firm belief that it is our collective task to set the course and path for our future toward unity and prosperity, not necessarily because we have a common interest in all issues, but because it is in our common interest to work together for solutions.

The last thing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to also acknowledge a lot of people who gave me support to bring me back here and I also would like to thank my family, including my mother, for their support always. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Frame Lake

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to congratulate all the Members on their election to this House and welcome those who have come back and offer a special welcome to those who are new. I'd also like to congratulate you on your selection as Speaker. I know that you'll be fair and impartial as you facilitate our work. I must say that, as the longest serving Member, it was an honour to work with one of the newest Members to drag you into your new Chair.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank a great crew of volunteers who helped me get re-elected. They really were dedicated, coming out evenings, no matter the temperature and the wind, with me to knock on doors, or to staff the office and work the phones. Some came in nearly every day. I'd especially like to thank Kirby Marshall, who headed up the team as my campaign marshal. Campaign manager. Kirby Marshall, campaign manager.

---Laughter

He marshaled the campaign well. I'd also like to thank my family: my wife Eileen, for supporting me in my decision to run, and our young son Tyler, for giving up all the time we otherwise would have spent with him. Apparently Eileen

got pretty good at tying up hockey skates, which is something he thought only I could do up until this campaign.

I'd also like to thank Mr. David Wind, who ran against me. He made sure the voters in Frame Lake had a choice and he ran a good, strong, issues-based campaign.

Finally, I'd like to thank my constituents for the trust and confidence that they have shown in me by sending me back to this House. I will do my best to honour that trust by working hard not only for my constituents, but for all of us in the Northwest Territories.

Thanks, too, to my colleagues for your trust in electing me to Cabinet. I think we have tremendous potential here over the next four years and look forward to working with all Members in this House as we move forward to realize that potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Inuvik Twin Lakes

MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to begin by trying to slow down after some of my constituents told me to, which means to speak slower so I can become more audible. Mr. Speaker, they also gave me a very strong philosophical statement by saying to take pride in being a good MLA, which I hope I will be able to do in this 15th Assembly.

Recognizing that statement, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of my campaign team. If there has ever been a book written about how to campaign and how to organize a campaign it can be done by a very valuable family member of mine, my sister Gloria, who lead and followed up with all the necessary work that required me to be re-elected to the 15th Assembly.

Also, I have committed to making a statement to a friend and colleague, Mr. Vince Sharp, who went way beyond the call of duty to get voters out to the voting polls. Also, my nephew, Kurt.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, like every Member of this Assembly, will be bringing forward a mandate. The mandate was drafted and articulated by my riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes that foresees the progression towards our goals and ambitions and where we should be looking forward to future governments.

I won't be extending my time too long because I think we have other official duties to carry through, but in conclusion I want to congratulate all the Members who have been elected, re-elected or acclaimed to this Assembly. As well, to you, Mr. Speaker, I convey my personal congratulations on behalf of my riding, as well as to the Premier-acclaimed and the new elected Cabinet. I look forward to working with yourself because we all have a duty to perform in this Assembly, whether it's as a Cabinet Minister or as a regular MLA. So I look forward to being able to work with the Members over the next four years.

Before I conclude, very special people in my life who I need to acknowledge for their dedication and support: my wife Dodie, Rolland, Jessica and Vanessa who bear the absence of myself on many occasions; my mother and father, who are getting elderly; as well as my young nephew who watches TV every day, and Liam who are watching tonight -- it's from Uncle, hello. Thank you so much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Constituents Of Deh Cho

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to quickly say a few words. I'd like to first off welcome the many people from my riding to the Legislative Assembly. It's good to see. It's not very often I have people in the audience that are here and watching us as we conduct our business. I want to start off also by saying thank you and congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, and also to our new Premier Joe Handley, who's already setting a tough agenda. We really have our work cut out for us. Also, congratulations to all the new Ministers who were elected and to all the people that put their names forward. It's not an easy decision to go out there and put your name forward and I commend their effort.

I want to take the time, also, to thank the people in the riding, in the communities, that were working with me on my campaign team. I also have to acknowledge Mr. Mike Nadli who ran against me. He brought a lot of credibility and came to the table with a lot of credibility and brought many issues forward. I want to wish him all the best.

Once again, I also have to thank my family for their support and for dealing with a lot of the stress that comes with running a campaign and going through an election period; my wife Joyce, my son Kevin, my daughters, Robyn and Shawna.

I also have to thank all my colleagues here today for all their support in electing me into a Cabinet position.

I never really had a chance to publicly thank my official agent, who's here today, Albert Lafferty. Also, a couple people who went out of their way to support me during my campaign, Mr. Rocky Simpson and Mr. Wally Shuman.

So, once again, I want to thank the many people in the audience and say Merry Christmas to all the people in my riding from Kakisa, Hay River Reserve, Enterprise and Fort Providence. I'm looking forward to working with all the Members of this House for all the people out there in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

At this time I would like to recognize a couple of our special guests: Chief Superintendent Everett Summerfield, commander of the RCMP "G" Division. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

The Honourable Justice Richard of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. Welcome.

---Applause

The Honourable Justice Vertes of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. Welcome.

---Applause

One person I'd like to have the honour of recognizing is the former Speaker of the House, Mr. Tony Whitford.

---Applause

And also, beside Tony is the former Clerk of the House, Mr. David Hamilton.

---Applause

At this time, it gives me great honour to recognize a former colleague, Premier and Minister of this House, Mr. Jim Antoine.

---Applause

At this time, I'd like to recognize Ms. Maureen Villebrun, Grand Chief of the Dene Nation. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

It gives me great honour to recognize a few constituents I have in the audience: Ms. Elaine Alexi of Fort McPherson.

---Applause

And also beside her, former chief and mayor, Mr. William Koe.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's not very often I get a chance to recognize visitors in the gallery and I have quite a few people who are here from the different communities in my riding. I'd like to, I can't see them here, but I have a classroom at the Aurora College in Fort Providence, they're here with their instructor, Margaret Field: Anthony Bonnetrouge, Lance Minoza, Dion Elleze, Joseph Landry, Evelyn Constant, Veronica Gargan, Beverly Bouvier, Wilma Gargan and Wanda Minoza. Also from Fort Providence we have our SAO from the Hamlet of Fort Providence, Susan Christie. Also, the mayor of Fort Providence, Maggie Levavasseur and her husband, Serge.

---Applause

And from the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation, the chief operating officer, Albert Lafferty.

---Applause

I'd also like to welcome the chief of Kakisa Band, Lloyd Chicot.

---Applause

And I believe the sub-chief is also here someplace, although I don't see him, Alan Landry.

---Applause

And, of course, my brother, Bob McLeod. Welcome.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleagues have noted, it's tough for us to see everybody who's in the gallery, so I'll probably miss some, but I'm going to try and recognize some of my constituents. You've recognized a couple of them already. I see up there Barb Saunders, who is executive director for the NWT Status of Women; Lyda Fuller, who is executive director for the YWCA. You did recognize, he's a former constituent, he's no longer a constituent, but Justice Ted Richard is also a former Member of this House. He was the Member for Yellowknife South. I thought we should mention that and recognize that.

---Applause

Along with Supreme Court Justice John Vertes is Mrs. Louise Vertes, who is no stranger to the government. I'd also like to recognize Mrs. Barb Wyness of the UNW and Mr. Blake Lyons from the NWT Association of Communities and, finally, my new executive secretary, Kathy Wind.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, among the people in the gallery today are representatives of a number of the business and social organizations in the communities of the Northwest Territories. I'd like to recognize Jennifer Marchant of the Northern Frontier Visitors Association, and Ms. Cecily Hewitt, who is the executive director of the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities. Also in the gallery today, Mr. Speaker, are Bea Daniels -- I believe she is still the president of the NWT Seniors' Society -- and Ms. Barb Hood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Delorey.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize a couple of constituents of mine in the gallery today. A very well-known northerner and a gentleman who has been associated with seniors for a long time is now the president of the Hay River Seniors' Society, Mr. Lloyd Brunet.

---Applause

Also, another constituent of mine and one that is no stranger around the Legislative Assembly and was my campaign manager in the election, Dawna O'Brien.

---Applause

I would also like to recognize the mayor of Hay River in the audience today, Ms. Diana Ehman.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize our very recently elected mayor of Hay River, Mayor Diana Ehman. Also very good friends of ours from Hay River and supporters, Stan and Karen Boudreau. Also I would like to recognize the presence in the gallery today of my lovely daughter -- I am very biased, I love her -- Jillian.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pleasure I get to introduce people into this Assembly. It's not too often we get people down from Inuvik. In the gallery, I have Ms. Shirley Kisoun and Ms. Pam Williams. As well, I would like to especially recognize the man who received me with open arms even though he didn't know he was going to get a new baby boy, my father David Roland.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just take this opportunity to recognize my family and friends. I know my mother hates being recognized, but she did a lot of work to get me here. My mom Taejeong Lee, and my supporter and friend, Connie Henderson. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to first recognize my wife Theresa. I hope she continues to recognize me.

---Laughter

I would also like to recognize Mayor Gordon Van Tighem from the city of Yellowknife and also all the deputy ministers who are sitting here nervously today.

---Laughter

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize all the other people who work behind the scenes who keep our government functioning well, particularly board members and board chairpersons. I see Andy Wong from the Workers' Compensation Board; Reanna Erasmus, a constituent and chairperson of the Yellowknife school board. It wouldn't be tradition if I didn't recognize Major Karen Hoeft as well. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my son Darren Pokiak up here and his uncle Rick Kikoak. I would also like to recognize my daughter, along with Gilbert Thrasher and his wife Lottie from Paulatuk, and also my brother Ernest Pokiak from Tuktoyaktuk and also Blake Noksana. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize an elder from the Sahtu: John Kenny. Also a leader from Fort Good Hope, Anthony Grandjambe from Sahtu and also my cousin Ernie Lennie up here, a former Olympic skier. Also elders in the gallery, aboriginal leaders, dignitaries and the lovely group of school children who sang O Canada. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an opportunity that comes every four years. I would like to recognize my wife, Jeri Miltenberger.

---Applause

As well from Thebacha, Ms. Bea Campbell, president of the NWT seniors.

---Applause

Last, but certainly not least, Mr. Rob Tordiff, president of the Northwest Territories Metis Nation.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to take this moment to recognize a very prominent leader in the Tu Nedhe region, our Chief Archie Catholique from Lutselk'e.

---Applause

Also another very prominent leader from the Tu Nedhe, our Dene National Chief Noeline Villebrun.

---Applause

I just want to say thanks to all the other leaders who couldn't make it here today and the rest of the constituents who were unable to make it here today.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although some of them have been recognized, I am still going to mention them again. Bishop Sperry, a constituent of mine who was here earlier. I am not sure if he is up there. Commissioner Glenna Hansen; chief superintendent and his wife; soon to be former constituent, former Clerk David Hamilton. I would like to recognize Reverend Flumerfelt -- I just saw him earlier -- Didier Bourgois, my neighbour; Esther Braden, a constituent. She snuck off there I believe. Dr. Judith Knapp, Jennifer Marchant and Audrey Zoe and my eyes aren't so good, so I am sorry if I missed anyone.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: There are a couple of guests from my riding today. I would like to recognize my aunty Yvonne Norwegian, special guests from Liidlii Kue First Nations, Hazel Isaiah Tanche and her sister Betty Hardisty. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Grand Chief Joe Rabesca. I believe he's in the gallery. Also Chief Eddie Paul Rabesca from the Dogrib Rae Band and Mr. Dan Marion, representing Dogrib Nations Group of Companies and Ernest Smith and his wife Christine Smith. I believe they are in the gallery. Also, councillor or former councillor Noel Bishop is also in the gallery. Oh, I can't forget her, my wife, Audrey Zoe, is in the gallery.

---Laughter

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I can't see up there to see if I missed anybody. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. At this time I would like to thank everyone for coming out today and those people who haven't been recognized, it's great to see you all here today. Thanks for coming out. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, petitions. Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Item 10, tabling of documents. Item 11, notices of motion. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 2-15(1): Appointment Of Premier

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 15th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that the Member for Weledeh, the Honourable Joseph L. Handley, is hereby chosen to be Premier and Member of the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, notices of motion. Mr. Braden.

Motion 3-15(1): Recommendation For Appointment Of Executive Council Members

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 15th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that the following Members be appointed to the Executive Council: Mr. Brendan Bell, Member for Yellowknife South; Mr. Charles Dent, Member for Frame Lake; Mr. Michael McLeod, Member for Deh Cho; Mr. Michael Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha; Mr. Floyd Roland, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake; and, Mr. Henry Zoe, Member for North Slave.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, notices of motion. Mr. Bell.

Motion 4-15(1): Appointments To The Striking Committee

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, December 15th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Ms. Sandy Lee, Mr. Robert Villeneuve and Mr. Norman Yakeleya be appointed to the Striking Committee of this Assembly.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, notices of motion. Ms. Lee.

Motion 5-15(1): Appointment Of Deputy Speaker

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, December 15th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, be appointed as Deputy Speaker.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, notices of motion. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 13, motions. Mr. Roland.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any

nays? No, there aren't. You have unanimous consent to continue.

ITEM 13: MOTIONS

Motion 2-15(1): Appointment Of Premier, Carried

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 61(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act require that there shall be an Executive Council of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Executive Council shall be comprised of a Premier chosen by this Legislative Assembly and persons appointed by the Commissioner on recommendation of this Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that the Member for Weledeh, the Honourable Joseph L. Handley, is hereby chosen to be Premier and Member of the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 13, motions. Mr. Braden.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? No, there aren't. You have unanimous consent to continue.

Motion 3-15(1): Recommendation For Appointment Of Executive Council Members, Carried

MR. BRADEN: WHEREAS section 61(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that there shall be an Executive Council of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Executive Council are appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that the following Members be appointed to the Executive Council: Mr. Brendan Bell, Member for Yellowknife South; Mr. Charles Dent, Member for Frame Lake; Mr. Michael McLeod, Member for Deh Cho; Mr. Michael Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha; Mr. Floyd Roland, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake; and, Mr. Henry Zoe, Member for North Slave.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 13, motions. Mr. Bell.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? No, there aren't. You have unanimous consent to continue.

Motion 4-15(1): Appointments To The Striking Committee, Carried

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS it is required by Rule 85 that the Legislative Assembly shall appoint a Striking Committee of three Members to report and recommend, with all convenient speed, Members to comprise the standing committees;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Ms. Sandy Lee, Mr. Robert Villeneuve and Mr. Norman Yakeleya be appointed to the Striking Committee of this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 13, motions. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Are there any nays? No, there aren't. You have unanimous consent to continue.

Motion 5-15(1): Appointment Of Deputy Speaker, Carried

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 46(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that a Deputy Speaker shall be elected at its First Session;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly wishes to appoint a Deputy Speaker;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, be appointed as Deputy Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 13, motions. Item 14, first reading of bills. Item 15, second reading of bills. Item 16, Mr. Clerk, Orders of the Day.

ITEM 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Friday, December 12, 2003:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Prorogation

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I would like to invite everyone to the Great Hall for the Commissioner's reception, which will be followed at 4:00 by the swearing in of the Premier and Cabinet Ministers.

This House stands adjourned until Friday, December 12, 2003, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:05 p.m.