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The Honourable David Krutko, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	503
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	503
25-15(3) - NORTHERN LEADERS MEETING	503
26-15(3) - CARS AWARDS FOR 2003	503
27-15(3) - NORTH AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK.....	504
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	504
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON NORTHERN LEADERS MEETING IN HAY RIVER.....	504
MR. POKIAK ON BEAUFORT-DELTA OIL AND GAS EDUCATION PROGRAM OF CONOCOPHILLIPS	504
MR. DELOREY ON SUCCESS OF DIAMOND JENNESS SECONDARY SCHOOL TRADES PROGRAM	505
MR. BRADEN ON MODERNIZATION OF LIQUOR LEGISLATION IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	505
MR. MENICOCHÉ ON IMPROVING THE LEGISLATURE'S BUDGET APPROVAL PROCESS	506
MR. YAKELEYA ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE SAHTU REGION.....	506
MR. RAMSAY ON INVESTING IN TOURISM IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	506
MR. ALLEN ON ANNUAL MUSKRAT TRAPPING GREETINGS	507
HON. FLOYD ROLAND ON SALUTE TO THE INUVIK ICE DEVILS.....	507
MR. HAWKINS ON LEGAL AID IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	508
MR. VILLENEUVE ON LITERACY AWARDS FOR THE LUTSELK'É DENE SCHOOL LITERACY COMMITTEE.....	508
MS. LEE ON LACK OF CONSULTATION ON POLICY CHANGES	508
MR. ZOE ON RECOGNITION OF PAGES FROM RAE	509
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	519
ORAL QUESTIONS	509
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	519
RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS	520
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	522
NOTICES OF MOTION	522
6-15(3) - SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE BUSINESS INCENTIVE POLICY.....	522
7-15(3) - SUPPORT FOR MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT	522
MOTIONS	523
6-15(3) - SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE BUSINESS INCENTIVE POLICY.....	523
3-15(3) - EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO MAY 26, 2004	526
4-15(3) - APPOINTMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEMBERS	527
5-15(3) - APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS	527
7-15(3) - SUPPORT FOR MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT	527

SECOND READING OF BILLS.....	528
BILL 6 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE PAYROLL TAX ACT, 1993 AND THE INCOME TAX ACT.....	528
THIRD READING OF BILLS	529
BILL 2 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT	529
BILL 3 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT, NO. 2.....	529
BILL 4 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 3, 2003-2004	529
ORDERS OF THE DAY	529

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, March 31, 2004****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

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. David Krutko): Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Premier.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 25-15(3): Northern Leaders Meeting**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the term of the 15th Legislative Assembly, the 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly agreed that a new approach is needed to develop our agenda and statement of priorities. Members rejected the old method of developing an agenda based solely on our views, and in isolation of other governments in the Northwest Territories. Members felt that it was critical that we embark on a new way of doing business that emphasized partnership and collaboration.

We have started off with informal meetings to explore ideas about the setting of priorities. Discussion focused on how the Members of this Assembly might reach out to the public more effectively and build partnerships with other northern governments and stakeholder groups. As a Legislative Assembly, we are determined to find ways to open up the lines of communication with all northern residents.

As a beginning, Members felt it was important to bring leaders together to exchange views and create a foundation for understanding and working together. In January, I joined the Chair of the Caucus, Mr. Kevin Menicoche, in announcing that leaders from across the North would be invited to a northern leaders meeting in Hay River in April.

Since that time, the planning for this meeting has gone very well. A planning committee chaired by Mr. Menicoche, and including representatives from aboriginal governments, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and the government was established to oversee the process.

I am pleased to say that representatives from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Sahtu Dene Council, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, Tlicho Treaty 11 Tribal Council, Akaitcho Dene First Nations, Northwest Territories Metis Nation, North Slave Metis Alliance, Deh Cho First Nations, Dene Nation and the Northwest Territories Association of Communities have all confirmed their participation at this meeting.

Mr. Speaker, the meeting will be held at the Chief Lamallice Complex on the Hay River Reserve from April 6 to 8. The meeting will be ably chaired by two distinguished northerners: Mr. Jim Antoine, a long-time

Member of this House and a former Premier of the Northwest Territories; and Joanne Barnaby, a former executive director of the Dene Cultural Institute and a resident of Hay River.

Mr. Speaker, this meeting is another important step in establishing productive partnerships with other northern leaders. We are very excited about the potential this meeting holds for leaders throughout the Northwest Territories to have a full and open discussion about the challenges and opportunities that face all governments in our territory. We hope these discussions will lead to an ongoing partnership between the various governments in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

Minister's Statement 26-15(3): CARS Awards For 2003

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I would like to call the Assembly's attention to the important work that CARS observer-communicators do to maintain safe and reliable air transportation at our community airports.

The community aerodrome radio station program, better known as CARS, provides essential weather and runway information to the aircraft and pilots serving our small communities. In recognition of the contribution that the observer-communicators make to safe air navigation in and out of our community airports, the Department of Transportation presents awards every year for the CARS station of the year and the observer-communicator of the year. A few weeks ago, the department announced the awards for 2003.

The award for the CARS station of the year went to the staff at the Fort Simpson airport. The Fort Simpson CARS service operates 24 hours a day assisting the air traffic at the Fort Simpson Island Airport and the Fort Simpson Territorial Airport. After Fort Smith and Hay River, the Fort Simpson airport is the third busiest CARS site in the Northwest Territories. The 2003 Station of the Year Award went to Josh Chappin, April Bell, Tim Brown, Jermaine Gargan and Jay Koldhis of Fort Simpson.

The Observer-Communicator Award for 2003 went to Nancy Zoe. Nancy was the only trained observer-communicator in Gameti for much of 2003 and through her diligent efforts kept the CARS site operating. Nancy's commendable dedication to the CARS service at Gameti deserves recognition.

Mr. Speaker, were it not for the commitment and effort of the CARS observers-communicators, our communities would not have the dependable scheduled air services that they make possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister Bell.

Minister's Statement 27-15(3): North American Occupational Safety And Health Week

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, North American Occupational Safety and Health Week will be held from May 2nd to 8th of this year. The goal is to focus the attention of employers, workers, the general public and all partners in occupational safety and health on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace and at home. North American Occupational Safety and Health Week was first launched in June 1997 marked by an agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico.

For many years, responsibility for Occupational Safety and Health Week related activities in the North fell to the Workers' Compensation Board. Five years ago, the WCB extended an invitation to business, labour and government to join in promoting this important event. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report this partnership has proven to be very successful. These organizations, along with members of a youth committee, have brought fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the events and it continues to grow in importance.

The theme for this year's Occupational Safety and Health Week, "Build a Safe Beginning," draws attention to the ever present need for ongoing training in the workplace. This is especially critical in the North with our young and ever increasing workforce.

Mr. Speaker, the 2004 organizing and youth committees have several exciting events planned: an employer contest, video lunches and safety demonstrations to name a few. I encourage all Members to get involved in North American Occupational Safety and Health Week this year and strengthen their commitment to occupational safety and health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Northern Leaders Meeting In Hay River

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to use my Member's statement to speak about the upcoming circle of northern leaders meeting being held on the Hay River Reserve. This is a new idea on the part of our government. The intent is to engage other northern leaders by including them in helping us set our agenda for the next four years.

There is a lot going on in our territory on many fronts. We are on the verge of changes in governance as some aboriginal governments take on new roles and responsibilities in their regions. There is much activity on the economic front as we prepare for major development in the resource sector. Other sectors of our economy are also growing. It is incumbent on this government as much as is in our power to ensure that capacity building, and the

realization of socioeconomic and political development be as consistent across our territory as possible. It's an exercise in managing our resources in a way that ensures opportunity and support to northerners through our programs and services in a fair and equitable manner. No one and no region can be overlooked.

As we prepare to meet with other northern leaders in Hay River next week, we will consider the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the North. We will contemplate what is to be gained by approaching these challenges and opportunities in a unified way as it relates to our common interests on behalf of the people we represent. I am of the opinion that there is much to be gained by working together, showing respect for each others' respective mandates and aspirations. If we can stay focused on the fact that what we do is not about us but about the people we represent, I think we will make progress. All of the people in the Northwest Territories have common needs with respect to their well-being and their right to prosper. Mr. Speaker, prosperity is not just about money, it is about wellness, self-reliance and dignity. I am looking forward to working with other northern leaders on behalf of our constituents, and I hope that a good spirit of cooperation and understanding are outcomes of our meeting when we get together in Hay River next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Member's Statement On Beaufort-Delta Oil And Gas Education Program of ConocoPhillips

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Beaufort-Delta Divisional Education Council youth entry level skills program, known as YELS, was established a number of years ago. YELS and the oil and gas companies sponsor a six-week program in the NWT and Alberta. This program offers an opportunity for high school students to learn about the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Speaker, YELS and ConocoPhillips sponsored five students from the Beaufort-Delta to tour the ConocoPhillips Wembley Gas Plant in Grande Prairie, Alberta, this year. I am proud to say that two students from our home community of Tuktoyaktuk were chosen to attend the program. They are Margaret Noksana, and Paul Steen. Some of the Members in this Chamber today may remember Paul Steen as he was a Page in the 14th Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Margaret Noksana was kind enough to provide my constituency assistant with the following information on the recent trip to Grande Prairie. They departed for Grande Prairie on March 7th and returned on March 12, 2004. Day one, tour of the Wembley Gas Plant, safety orientation, engineer orientation; day two,...(inaudible)...production, safety meetings, went to see some small pumps, saw how oil and water are separated; day three, further tour of gas plant, watched oil and gas movies; day four, tour of the regional college in Grande Prairie.

Mr. Speaker, during this tour Ms. Noksana indicated that she met a lot of nice people. Ms. Noksana and Mr. Steen enjoyed their trip very much. Without the assistance of YELS and ConocoPhillips, these students would not have

been able to travel south to get a firsthand experience of the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Speaker, oil and gas exploration plays an important part for employment and business opportunities in the Beaufort-Delta. Students involved in the YELS program see firsthand the importance of education and may decide to find a trade in the oil and gas field as engineers and gas plant operators et cetera. Therefore, I would encourage Ms. Noksana and Mr. Steen to complete their education, and take advantage of whatever opportunities are available to them.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank YELS and ConocoPhillips on providing students such as Ms. Noksana and Mr. Steen with an opportunity to explore the oil and gas industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Member's Statement On Success Of Diamond Jenness Secondary School Trades Program

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to deliver a good news story today on the successes of the trades program currently being offered at Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of valuable trades orientated programs currently being offered to Diamond Jenness students. There is a mechanics program, a welding program, a housing construction program, and the schools north apprenticeship program.

Mr. Speaker, the mechanics program is a new program that exposes students to auto mechanics. Local mechanic, Mr. Norm Gour, has for the past seven months and continues to donate his time on a volunteer basis to the success of this program. Under his guidance, students participate in classroom demonstrations, activities and community field trips. Corporate sponsorship from both Kingland Ford and Bumper to Bumper have been instrumental in the success of this program.

The welding program, Mr. Speaker, is in its second year, and has doubled in size and stature. Students participate in classroom demonstrations, welding activities, and community field trips. Sponsorship from NTCL and the Canadian Coastguard have greatly contributed to the success of this program.

Mr. Speaker, the housing program is a successful partnership between the NWT Housing Corporation and the school. Students participate in hands-on construction of residential housing units. Local tradespersons who specialize in carpentry, drywalling, painting, electrical, plumbing, heating, cabinetry and floor covering instruct students, and all hours donated by these trades people are strictly on a volunteer basis. Approximately 3,800 student hours are donated yearly to this extremely valuable program.

Another program currently being offered, Mr. Speaker, is the schools north apprenticeship program. This program involves a partnership between the students, Education, Culture and Employment, Diamond Jenness and our local businesses. Sponsorship includes Kingland

Manufacturing, Kingland Ford, Bumper to Bumper and Poison Painting.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a tremendous credit at this time to the efforts of Mr. Tim Borchuk the shop teacher at Diamond Jenness, and Mr. John Ashcroft, who have been hired to oversee the shop students. The tremendous vision shown by these two men in maintaining the trades program is to be commended. 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? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation's sponsorship of the housing program has resulted in allowing DJSS to diversify its trades program. If it were not for their assistance, the school would not be able to offer the housing program, the welding program, or the welder mechanics program.

I would just like to propose that there is more work to be done. Our high school is 30 years old and has not been updated to reflect the needs of the growing NWT economy. With the growing needs for skilled trades persons and the implementation of the career technology studies program, our current facility is maximized. Mr. Speaker, an expanded facility and increased funding for instruction at Diamond Jenness will not only satisfy the current demands, but will allow for expansion into the pre-trades education. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work to ensure that this becomes a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement On Modernization Of Liquor Legislation In The Northwest Territories

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are 170 licensed liquor establishments in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. By far, the vast majority of these are well-run establishments necessary to our communities, to our hospitality industry that provide jobs. About five percent of them, at the most, cause our problems. In the last two years alone, we've had two deaths in Yellowknife attributed to situations and incidents in bars. Other serious incidents are on record in Hay River and Inuvik. Our Liquor Licensing Board, under the chairmanship of Mr. John Simpson, has, in recent months, undertaken very proactive and responsible measures and enforced compliance among these few establishments with the standards that are already in our laws.

However, these very welcome changes in approach have generated considerable negative reaction from some sectors. Most disappointing is that in the words of Mr. Simpson, our own government has not signalled its support. Mr. Simpson, regrettably, has tendered his resignation because he doesn't feel that he has the backing of our governing authority which is our Department of Finance. In fact, in a conversation with Mr. Simpson this morning, and in direct answer to my question, "Are you being interfered with or hobbled in your

actions by this government," he answered without hesitation, "Totally."

Minister Roland, the Minister of Finance, in a news report this morning, said, "The board is quasi-judicial and is a ruler. It makes judgments on establishments for breaking the rules that are there. So it is very difficult for them to go into the social aspect of it and try to expand its mandate." But, there is a disturbing contrast, Mr. Speaker, between the Minister's approach and that of Mr. Justice Ted Richard, who wrote in the decision in August 2002, about a board ruling. Mr. Justice Richard said, "Considerations which focus on public safety and public peace are consistent with the purpose of the Liquor Act and the intention of the Legislature."

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? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. So between the Minister responsible for managing liquor in the Northwest Territories and the judiciary, we have a dramatic difference -- I would say a grand canyon, Mr. Speaker -- in how we manage and enforce our laws. It is long overdue that we resolve these issues with a full-scale revamping and modernization of our antiquated liquor legislation. It should go beyond just the issues surrounding this board, but it should also go into many other areas that are impacted by the way we manage alcohol. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I support the direction and the approach taken by the board and hope that it will continue with some support at least from this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Member's Statement On Improving The Legislature's Budget Approval Process

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about the GNWT budgeting process. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected MLA, I have not seen regular Members have direct input into the government budgeting process. I was thinking to myself last night about the process and possible ways to better improve the system so that regular Members have their direct input. As a regular Member, I can see that we are the ones who have to answer to the people of our ridings. As things are now, to do that, I have to ask questions relating to the budget process and how the government plans to allocate the monies and in which direction it will flow and for what length of time. I believe that regular Members should have a say in the departmental budget reviews throughout the year or prior to the budget's session when concrete budget plans are announced.

Mr. Speaker, as the MLA for Nahendeh, and since the budget speech at the beginning of this session, I have been questioned by a number of my constituents as to why this was done and why that was not done and why was this taken out and why wasn't this taken into consideration; questions that I am sure will be followed up

with letters which I will then be passing on to the appropriate departments that I will be questioning myself.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if the MLAs were involved in the budget-making process before and, of course, during the business planning stage, a lot of unnecessary constituency complaints could be avoided. I believe that regular Members are as much part of the government decision-making process and are just as accountable to their constituents as the government is to the people of the NWT. Mr. Speaker, regular Members should be consulted more regularly throughout the year on how the government plans to budget their monies and what areas will be affected or not affected. Mahsi Cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Member's Statement On Affordable Housing For The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is on affordable housing in the Sahtu. Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the communities across the Northwest Territories that need more adequate, suitable and affordable housing. Housing in the communities is crucial today. The situation in the Sahtu is no exception. The lack of affordable housing in my constituency affects people across the board; elders, families and single people. Residents are suffering from overcrowded housing and many houses are in desperate need of major repairs. Not too long ago, Mr. Speaker, I learned about a Fort Good Hope elder who was living in a condemned house. Mr. Speaker, we can and must do more.

What I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, is a strategy in the Sahtu that takes into account people's needs and interests. We need to do something different here. We need a unique response to the particular needs of the people in the Sahtu and other regions. My personal experience tells me that pride in one's home is an important part of breaking the cycle of dependency. I see no better way to develop pride and self-sufficiency than owning one's own home. I can say this from personal experience, having built a log house in my youth.

The 2004 NWT housing needs survey is due out any day. I look forward to reading it, Mr. Speaker, although I am afraid to confirm what I already know from what I see when I go to the communities in the Sahtu and what my constituents tell me. The issue of the BIP has been on my mind for some time and the intent of waiving the BIP. The point I am making in this House, Mr. Speaker, is we need housing in the Sahtu and this is what the communities are looking for from this government. I have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Member's Statement On Investing In Tourism In The Northwest Territories

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to use my Member's statement today to draw attention to an

area of our economy that does not always get the respect it deserves. That area is tourism, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

I believe that the Government of the Northwest Territories has to get serious about tourism and the way we market and promote our territory to Canada and the rest of the world. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories Arctic Tourism Association carries the mandate from this government to promote and market the Northwest Territories. This organization should be recognized for the onerous job they have been providing the tourism industry in our territory. Mr. Speaker, they provide this service with a skeleton staff of four and which, along with the overall budget of \$1.8 million, happens to be the smallest in Canada.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, Nunavut, with no roads, less on-the-ground infrastructure, and product, has a greater budget for tourism than the Northwest Territories. The government in the Yukon has just boosted their tourism budget by \$1.3 million which, by the way, amounts to our entire marketing budget, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to recognize the job that Mr. Jim Peterson, the president, has done in the last 15 months in turning this organization around. Also, Mr. Speaker, the other two key employees at Northwest Territories Arctic Tourism, the executive director, Mr. David Grindley, and communications director, Brian Desjardins, also deserve a great deal of recognition for the job they have been doing.

Mr. Speaker, tourism often gets lost in the shuffle at RWED. It has diamonds, oil, gas, and other mineral developments to compete with. We must pay more attention to this growing and exciting segment of our economy. It is sustainable development. It helps diversify our resource-based economy. I am looking forward to going through the business planning process in the months ahead and any anticipated restructuring of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, to see if we can't find some creative ways to get more funding and support to an organization that has demonstrated that it deserves the respect and support for this government. 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? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent to conclude.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have so much to offer visitors to our territory such as hunting, fishing, aurora viewing, other outdoor activities, cultural events, festivals and a natural beauty that, Mr. Speaker, rivals anything on our planet. The budget process has concluded this week. I just wanted to mention to the other Members of this House that I do hope we, as a group, can soon set our priorities so that we can give this industry, the 800 jobs and the \$50 million it adds to our economy, the attention that it rightly deserves. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement On Annual Muskrat Trapping Greetings

MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to follow up on the Member for Kam Lake's statement because mine is similar in context. I would like to begin my Member's statement by using a descriptive phrase we trappers grew up with. In March, as we were told by our grandparents, the weather is supposed to be roaring like a lion and go out like a lamb. I was told this morning that my constituency in Inuvik has been the reverse this year. It came in like a lamb and it is now going out like a lion. Mr. Speaker, I raise this important issue as someone who is normally on the land, trapping muskrats, getting wind burnt, getting a good suntan at this time of year.

Mr. Speaker, there are a tremendous number of local stories told about an elder in the Mackenzie Delta during the muskrat trapping season, none of which is allowed to be retold in this Assembly. But since this is an important time of year for our trappers in the Mackenzie Delta, including my riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes, I am going to take this opportunity to send my annual muskrat trapping greetings to the following people: Edward and Jeannie Lennie, Sam and Margaret Lennie, Roger and Rose Anne, you know who they are, Big Johnny and his partner, Gilligan and Rhoda, Big Ben, just to name a few who are going to be referred to by their nicknames, Mr. Speaker. I want to leave the last for the best, and that is none other than my cousin Ian McLeod, the trapper extraordinaire in his own right. I just wanted to let the people know that I will be joining them within the next two weeks so we can trap the...(inaudible)...Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement On Salute To The Inuvik Ice Devils

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of events happening that I would like to make mention of here before heading back home. One, Mr. Speaker, is that the Inuvik Ice Devils hockey team an oldtimer's hockey team from Inuvik has just traveled down to Ottawa to take part in the 2004 World Cup. This event is an event of oldtimers' teams from across Canada and international teams as well. Mr. Speaker, if I wasn't in this forum, in this arena, I would be joining the team and hopefully helping them along. But I am wishing that they are successful. They have already had a couple of games, and they play one more today. I hope they are successful and represent us well there.

On another issue of sporting, Mr. Speaker, is the annual event in the Mackenzie Delta area, in Inuvik. It is the 47th annual Muskrat Jamboree which takes in a lot of different sporting events: dog team races, skidoo races, children's events, log sawing, nail pounding, to name a few. Mr. Speaker, this year, the Muskrat Jamboree committee has dedicated this event to the elders past and present and reminds us all to respect our elders as we go about the activities. I hope to be home and watching a lot of events that occur at the 47th annual Muskrat Jamboree. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. This is just a reminder, Members, that you are to make just one statement, not two. Try to keep that in mind. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Member's Statement On Legal Aid In The Northwest Territories

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise on our last day of this session to talk to you about one of the important issues. I was going to talk to you earlier about issues such as tourism and the fact that this government treats tourism almost like an ugly cousin who is twice removed. But, today, I want to finish this session with the way I started it, to talk to you about legal aid.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this government could be doing better. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have good people working out there who make legal aid happen. I believe we have dedicated people who are not being compensated fairly for what they do, but they do it because they take pride in the service that they do and the fact that they know people out there need help. The Minister has recognized this. The Minister has even pointed out that we are only funded at 50 percent. The fact is that he is not exactly sure how long it has been since there has been growth on the government's side of contribution, and he has committed to get back to this House on that measure.

Mr. Speaker, it has also been brought to the attention of this House the fact that annual reports have finally made it to the light of day in this Assembly. We are still absent of one that is only a year late. If we can wait for one that was seven years late, I guess I can wait for one that is only one year late. Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you enough that this is a frustrating issue. At this rate, I am going to have to wait until something freezes over before we obviously get some serious action knocking at our door.

Mr. Speaker, I have brought to the attention of the House earlier in this Assembly that it is now seven months since this person consulted with legal aid to get their application started, but yet they are still waiting to get a maintenance order, custody order, or divorce in place. There are many issues as well as safety that are always mentioned as a concern for that family. I called for action, yet I have heard none.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am going to say that I have brought this to the attention of the House, yet very little action has been seen. Therefore, I will be grabbing the reins and whipping these horses. I am going to start calling my own consultations with our community because, if this government doesn't act, somebody needs to take responsibility on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Member's Statement On Literacy Award For The Lutselk'e Dene School Literacy Committee

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to acknowledge the tremendous contribution to literacy that the Lutselk'e Dene School Literacy

Committee has achieved over the past year. Mr. Speaker, the Lutselk'e Dene School Literacy Committee comprises members which include Ms. Dawn Thompson, Miss Jenny English, Miss Doris Bruno, Miss Eleanor Young, and Mr. Geoff Bunckle. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, my colleagues and the people of the NWT, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to these individuals who have volunteered their time in making a worthwhile difference for the students and members of the Lutselk'e community and for their outstanding commitment to literacy.

I say kudos to the members of this literacy committee for their achievements and being recognized as recipients of the 2003-2004 Ministerial Literacy Award. This award is awarded to individuals or organizations that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving personal levels of literacy and have worked to promote and foster literacy within their community.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, I encourage these members to proudly display this literacy recognition certificate in the Lutselk'e Dene School so that all students, staff and parents can not only realize the true value of literacy, but also the value of volunteerism, dedication and hard work in contributing to the well-being of our communities. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement On Lack Of Consultation On Policy Changes

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight two things that are terribly wrong with the way the Housing Corporation and the Cabinet have exempted themselves from its own BIP. Mr. Speaker, first of all, it's the lack of input from the regular Members and a major shift in a government policy. Not just the exemption from the BIP, but the major change in the long-held policy of the Housing Corporation. For the entire period of its life, Mr. Speaker, the corporation has insisted on stick built homes rather than mobile homes. This was changed and maybe there was a good reason for this, but it has wider implications and I think we ought to have had a collective say on that. This is something we ought to be given not only prior notice of, but a real opportunity for input.

I'm quite offended that we were sent a letter at the same time the letters and press release went out to the public. I have to ask you, Mr. Speaker, are we a consensus government or not? Who's running this government anyway? Are the regular Members going to have any input or say on such a major policy shift?

Mr. Speaker, the second issue I have with this is the role of the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and the department or lack thereof. The Minister responsible -- this is the department and Minister responsible for the BIP and maximizing economic development in the North -- in answering questions says over and over that there was a balancing act of providing the badly needed housing to professionals in communities in the most cost-effective way possible. But in doing the cost-benefit analysis I have to ask what information did the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic

Development bring to the Cabinet table about the loss-of-opportunity cost in sending these projects south?

Mr. Speaker, questions like the benefit of all the money the department spends on giving loans and guarantees to the businesses who could do this work. The benefit of all the transfer payments we get from the federal government for having people and businesses live and work here. That finances our whole government budget. The benefit of the money businesses and people put into our local economy from working and living here, and what about the taxes they pay? What about the community services and donations that these people and their businesses make to our local charities? What about the benefit of the reduced social cost from people getting jobs from these projects in the North?

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I finally received a package from the Housing Corporation about how cheap...Mr. Speaker, may I get unanimous consent to conclude my statement? Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we finally received the package from the Housing Corporation about how cheap they can buy 22 mobile homes at factory cost from down south. Well, Mr. Speaker, I could have done that. I could have just called the number and got the costs. I would certainly expect that Cabinet will make decisions like this on the basis of more comprehensive information and cost-benefit analysis.

Just yesterday we approved the government budget and RWED got \$83 million and PYs of 480 people. I know that somewhere in there that department has economists and business advisors. I would suggest to the Minister of RWED that he puts them to work and gets them to start crunching the real numbers and have them ready for the Cabinet meeting tomorrow morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Pages From Rae

HON. HENRY ZOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, (Translation) I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the seven Pages who served this House in the last three days. These students are constituents of mine from Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School in Edzo and were selected by Principal Rita Mueller with their hard work and dedication shown in their studies. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank these following students: Kevin Crookedhand, Cassandra Camsell, Tia Marissa Gon, Rambo MacKenzie, Mandy Mantla, John Paul Rabesca and Ernest Smith for a job well done.

MR. SPEAKER: I'd like to welcome these Pages here for this week and I wish to see them back here and hope to see if they will be at the Youth Parliament we will be holding in May. For the Pages, I'd like to thank you all; the

ones that were here earlier and during session and the ones that have gone back home to their communities. Thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you back here again. Thank you.

----Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Braden.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 120-15(3): A New Liquor Act For The Northwest Territories

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement today I addressed the area of the Liquor Licensing Board so my questions are for the Minister of Finance who has responsibility for that area. I contrasted a statement by the Minister in which -- I'm paraphrasing here -- he indicated that it's difficult for the board to go into social aspects in expanding its mandate. Yet a judge of our court indicated that considerations, which focus on public safety and public peace that are consistent within the purpose of the Liquor Act and the intention of the legislature. My question for the Minister, Mr. Roland, is can the Minister explain the discrepancy between his views on the matter and that of the judiciary? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 120-15(3): A New Liquor Act For The Northwest Territories

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think in responding to that question we should look at more than just one very small section of what was stated in that ruling. In fact, there's an area that refers to the enactment of the Liquor Act as an exercise of the legislature of its authority to make laws in relation to property and civil rights and also in relation to intoxicants. There are a number of factors there. By the language of the act in section 6(2) and section 13 in particular, the legislature intended to give broad discretion to the Liquor Licensing Board, section 6.2(2) subject to this act, the board shall control (a) the conduct of licence holders; (b) the management of equipment of licensed premises; and, (c) the conditions under which liquor may be sold or consumed on licensed premises. This is coming from the actual ruling that was made. I don't think I differ from what's been there and, in fact, how the board would carry out and conduct its affairs that would have an impact on the public safety of individuals in the Northwest Territories.

My comments to the media are more when you look at the other aspects of social conditions in the Northwest Territories, when it comes to our concerns as we've heard raised many times in this Assembly from the Minister of Health and Social Services and the cost that it has on our system and the lives of the people in the Northwest Territories, how far do we go as a quasi-judicial board into the area of social response or morale, in a sense? How do we legislate that? How do we control that? They do play a role and it's an important role and I support them in that initiative. They've been tough on a number of recent rulings and I met with them and said it's within their authority. If they want to make their rulings harder and harsher, as long as they're being consistent across the

board that was okay with me. I met with them and discussed that issue and then said if they had concerns about other areas I'd be glad to meet with them and discuss those concerns.

We should be clear that I don't see myself as differing from the judicial aspect of the role. The concern that I have is, as a quasi-judicial board, if they in fact go beyond their mandate -- which was also laid down in the report from the judge -- into the socialism and into advocacy, then we have some blurring of the lines. So we have to be careful there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 120-15(3): A New Liquor Act For The Northwest Territories

MR. BRADEN: Thank you. This, indeed, is the kind of discussion that is useful to the whole topic, but it is one that I think really needs to be broadly expanded, Mr. Speaker, if we're going to sit here and debate the fine points of a mandate and judicial ruling, we could be here for a long time and not address what really is at issue here. That is the cost in human terms of the abuse and mismanagement of alcohol. So at least in consideration of the environment we're in today, what steps will the Minister take to endorse our Liquor Licensing Board's new and more proactive approach to enforcing our laws? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 120-15(3): A New Liquor Act For The Northwest Territories

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, I did meet with the Liquor Licensing Board here in Yellowknife a number of weeks ago and discussed a number of things such as mandate, goals, a number of their concerns over who has authority over the budget, how things were working, communications. I said I gladly open the door to having a good, healthy working relationship. It caught me by surprise that the letter indicated the resignation of the chairperson.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I think we will be proactive. Number one, the Department of Finance has the Liquor Act under our authority and we're intending to move forward with some work in that area and looking possibly at a rewrite of the act. There's work going on there. We need to go further and clarify what actual roles and responsibilities will be for enforcement and how the board would look at itself. Again, the bigger broader picture is can that act and the Liquor Licensing Board deal with the full gamut of the social responsibility that we would have as a government? I think we're again going into a different area.

This Assembly, as a whole, can set a direction and a policy and try to work to that area through Health and Social Services, through Education, Culture and Employment, but can we combine that all into one act and one board, that being the Liquor Licensing Board? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 120-15(3): A New Liquor Act For The Northwest Territories

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the information that the Minister is providing just doesn't jibe with what I heard from Mr. Simpson. Again, in the conversation I had with him this morning, in the aspect of seeking assistance from the department he said that he or we, the board, felt like we were high school kids going and asking for help to get a few things done like building a Web site, more training for their own people, training for bar staff and wait staff, continually denied at the administrative and bureaucratic level. So where the Minister says we'll support you, in reality that is just not the case as I've heard from Mr. Simpson. Can the Minister explain that discrepancy?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 120-15(3): A New Liquor Act For The Northwest Territories

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through this whole process -- and the media term as to the harshness of the rulings that were made -- I've stayed out of the picture, because they are a quasi-judicial board told to do things. They have an act to follow. They've done that and I haven't interfered with that process. I did state, when I met with the Liquor Licensing Board, that if there were concerns to please work through me and I will initiate a process. If there are concerns around enforcement, I will work with the Minister of Justice to try and do that. Is there an education factor? I will work with one of the other Ministers that can help support that initiative. If it's from within, we'll do that.

Mr. Speaker, in my initial meeting with the chairperson of the day, Mr. Simpson, and again with the board, there were a number of issues we discussed. I didn't have red flags thrown my way to say here are critical issues that are not working. I did hear and have seen some e-mails about some frustration dealing with department officials. Mr. Speaker, again, we have to look at what authorities we have and how far we can go. If there were those concerns and they were that drastic, then I would have liked to have heard from them personally in a one-on-one instead of going about this route that we have now seen. I don't think it's appropriate that we air out this concern in a public way where it's aimed at one or two individuals within a department or even to the board itself. I would have much more appreciated the fact that we could have sat down, discussed the issues and I could have sort of set a course of action in place and tried to work it out that way.

I still think there are some valid points made and we're going to work to improving that but, Mr. Speaker, there's obviously quite a difference from what the Member has raised to me here and what I've heard in the media than the letter I received from the individual. So there's very different messaging going on there and that is somewhat disappointing. Thank you.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 120-15(3): A New Liquor Act For The Northwest Territories

MR. BRADEN: Thank you. You know, the Minister is right in that if we get into a sort of he said/she said discussion here, we're not going to help the issue. I would like to use my last question to ask on a go-forward basis. Will the Minister commit to bringing a new Liquor Act forward and to do so in time for consideration and passage by this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 120-15(3): A New Liquor Act For The Northwest Territories

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a high priority for the Department of Finance. We've highlighted that, brought it forward as we begin our legislative planning process. So it is a high priority for us and I intend to do the work necessary to bring it forward and try to have that dealt with in the lifetime of this Assembly. As the Member stated, this is a very old act, there has been some work done on it in the past. It is a high priority and we intend to move it forward as best we can. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Just to remind Members that we only have 60 minutes for oral questions. In 11 minutes we've only gone through one question. I have a lot of people on my list, so if we could get to the point when you ask the question, and in your responses answer the question to the point of the question being asked.

----Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 121-15(3): Pilot Project For Log Homes In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the review of the proposed budget for the Housing Corporation during the last week, the honourable Minister spoke about the number of program objectives that really support increased community involvement and participation and decision-making increases, and personal responsibility in order to break the cycle of dependency that are desperately needed in the Sahtu region. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier in my Member's statement, I see it as personal pride to own a home as very important. In the pride of building a home for oneself is perhaps the most effective way for a person to get themselves beyond the cycle of dependency, especially in public housing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation if he will commit to working with local housing authorities in the Sahtu region to offer opportunities to individuals who may be interested in building their own log houses. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 121-15(3): Pilot Project For Log Homes In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we've had programs targeted towards log homes in the past. We've done several projects in the Member's riding. I believe it was Deline that came up with some very nice log units there. However, our experience with the logs over the years has been that it's very costly and we are currently working with one community to do a pilot project, but I would certainly entertain any proposals or any discussions the Member may have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 121-15(3): Pilot Project For Log Homes In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. During the review of the Housing Corporation in Committee of the Whole, the Minister recognized that the Sahtu has a very pressing need for housing and housing needs and that the Minister was going to look at a proposal for the Sahtu. I would like to ask the Minister, would he commit his department to look at a pilot project within the Sahtu that would commit to log buildings for next year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 121-15(3): Pilot Project For Log Homes In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would welcome the opportunity to look at a pilot project in the communities. Our concerns, the high cost components of log buildings in all the different regions, of course, is the cost of the logs and of the professional trainers. Our target and our priority is to promote homeownership. If there are ways we can use our existing programs to benefit the Members and their desires to put in log units, I'd certainly look at that. We have a number of programs that can fit the bill. We can modify some of our EDAP programs possibly or IHP or look specifically at a pilot project in the area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 121-15(3): Pilot Project For Log Homes In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister recommend to his department to look at the...In Sahtu there is the high cost of doing business up there and can the Minister recommend from his department costs that could minimize the cost of building log houses in terms of pricing of windows, doors and roofing for single people, single men that would like to have a log house in their communities? It takes a lot of effort and time for the communities to gather this information. Can this department put together a pricing package that would be suitable and affordable in the Sahtu region for these log homes? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 121-15(3): Pilot Project For Log Homes In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have, as part of our technical team in the Sahtu, a person that specializes in log building. I will follow up the request with my officials and we will do some preliminary work in that area. We can also have a sit-down discussion with community members, if it is desired, when we have our community tour. I believe we're planning to go there this coming month, sometime toward the end of this month. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 121-15(3): Pilot Project For Log Homes In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. In terms of the log housing, a lot of the people in the Sahtu like to live in their log houses, especially the single people. In terms of getting a project like that off the ground, would the Minister commit to this House to work with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in terms of training opportunities they could have for the people who are interested in it? If we get one or two log houses in the Sahtu region as a pilot project, surely we can look at that as a means to building affordable housing in our region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 121-15(3): Pilot Project For Log Homes In The Sahtu Region

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to doing that. I will commit to working with the required Ministers that would be affected by this project. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 122-15(3): Waiving Of Business Incentive Policy

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to question the Premier in regard to my concern about waiving of the BIP. Mr. Speaker, the other day I quoted from the policy, therefore, I will not start with that. With the steps being presented and some of the concerns of other Members and in recognition that the policy can be waived and it's not law, what steps has the Premier taken to ensure that the waiving of the business incentive policy will not become a frequent practice of this Cabinet? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Premier, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 122-15(3): Waiving Of Business Incentive Policy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation has earlier this week offered that he will bring this to Cabinet on Thursday. We intend to have a full discussion on it as it relates to housing, but no doubt we'll have a good discussion on the BIP itself generally. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, RWED is doing some work on a registry. There are some other things being done this year. I can

assure the Member that if it seems that we have to make exceptions to any policy on any sort of frequent basis, however you define that, then we would want to rewrite or revise that policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 122-15(3): Waiving Of Business Incentive Policy

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Speaker, a constituent called me this morning and talked about the laws of economic opportunity that his business will lose; the fact that he may be bidding on this project just to keep his employees employed by waiving his potential of profit. Does the Premier recognize that this potential exists by northern companies trying to aggressively bid on this project at any cost to keep their employees employed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Premier, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 122-15(3): Waiving Of Business Incentive Policy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar with any specific case. I trust that every one of the 17 or so northern companies that have picked up the tender documents are picking it up because they feel that it's to their advantage to put in a bid or at least consider a bid. It could be to make a profit, it could be to keep things moving in their shop. I'm not sure what their reasons would be. I'm certainly encouraged by the number of northern companies who have picked up the documents and, I assume, intend to submit a tender. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 122-15(3): Waiving Of Business Incentive Policy

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing the time I will drop my fourth question and just ask a yes or no question to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, would the Premier be able to answer yes or no, clearly and for everyone's benefit? Would he be willing to consider stopping this project and re-tendering it in a way that it would include the BIP and making that decision this week?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Premier, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 122-15(3): Waiving Of Business Incentive Policy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, we're discussing it tomorrow at Cabinet. I think the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation has already been asked and said he would consider extending it for two weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Question 123-15(3): Income Support Program Impacting Trappers

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in regard to income support. Although RWED is mentioned in my opening remarks, it

will relate to income support. RWED has a harvesters' assistance program in the Beaufort-Delta region. My understanding of this program is to assist hunters and trappers to purchase equipment, et cetera, for their harvesting and wild game and subsistence use. The local HTAs administer the funds and decide who is eligible for assistance. This program has proven to be successful in that hunters and trappers are able to purchase equipment and to maintain their traditional pursuits, especially for those who cannot afford to purchase equipment, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, recently I heard that income support workers in the Beaufort-Delta are including this as part of their calculation in income support when harvesters apply for income support. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment if he's aware that his department is penalizing some harvesters in receiving their income support payments because of the harvesters' assistance program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 123-15(3): Income Support Program Impacting Trappers

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was advised around noon, shortly before we began in the House today, that this was happening and asked whether or not it actually fit within the policy for income support. I am not able to answer that question right now. I have contacted the department and asked them to provide me with some advice on that.

Typically I do know that almost all forms of income that people receive are considered when the level of support from income support is being calculated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

Supplementary To Question 123-15(3): Income Support Program Impacting Trappers

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Inuvialuit and also the Gwich'in in the Sahtu, in their land claim agreements, I know it doesn't exempt them from certain income. I would like to ask the Minister if he's aware of that and what will he do to relay this to the income support workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 123-15(3): Income Support Program Impacting Trappers

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that some forms of assistance that are provided subject to treaties are exempt from calculation when we're examining how much support to provide somebody on income support, but it is specified sources. That income has to come from a specified source. I'm not sure if the payments to harvesters are specified, and I have asked the department to look into that and advise me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

Supplementary To Question 123-15(3): Income Support Program Impacting Trappers

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister. Once you find out that information can you relay that information back to me, and also relay it to our income support worker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 123-15(3): Income Support Program Impacting Trappers

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I only have one question today. It is in regard to the return to oral question by the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. He stated that significant change in housing or households would now be assessed rent. Mr. Speaker, members of our Seniors' Society should be and are concerned that this Assembly has not been made aware of any such shift in policy change where seniors' households will be assessed rent. I am going to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Seniors. Is he willing to help alleviate some of the fears that seniors' household incomes would be assessed based on a line in the reply? So I am going to ask the Minister responsible for Seniors if he has been dealing with the seniors' societies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for seniors, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought that was for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and I didn't follow the question. I apologize and ask the Member if he could restate the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Can the Member restate the question for the Minister?

Question 124-15(3): Rent Assessment Of Seniors In Social Housing

MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be glad to oblige that request. I am going to ask again to the Minister responsible for seniors if he is willing to communicate to the Seniors' Society to try to alleviate some of the fears that the seniors' households would be now assessed rent based on the statement in the returns to oral questions? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for Seniors, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 124-15(3): Rent Assessment Of Seniors In Social Housing

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for Seniors, I have had discussions with the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and I will continue to do that to make sure that whatever actions we take as a government are done in a measured and

coordinated way, and that there is no undue concern caused to any quarter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 125-15(3): Cost Benefit Analysis Of The BIP

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, further to my statement today, my question goes to the Minister of RWED. Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that this could have been done much better, that we could be providing the necessary housing for the professionals in the community, but if it was done the right way and if there was plenty of planning going on we could have involved the local businesses. Instead we are in a situation where we have a three-month deadline for the barge in June, and we have to find the cheapest way possible. So, Mr. Speaker, in an ideal world I expect these seven Cabinet Ministers to come to the table, they have an issue to discuss, something like waiving the BIP or switching from stick built to mobile homes, I expect that those seven Ministers bring their personal expertise depending on their backgrounds, and then their government expertise. I am not hearing that from the Minister of RWED. I want to know what he is prepared to bring to the table tomorrow so that it is not just a rerun of the same exercise, but that they would really do a comprehensive cost and benefit analysis about sending these works out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 125-15(3): Cost Benefit Analysis Of The BIP

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the Member for her continued support of northern business. I think that's very important, and I think it is important for the entire government and this legislature to make sure that that is a priority.

---Applause

The Member does know that the genesis for this program was in the last Assembly. Much of this work and much of the program was quite far down the pipe. So the decision to engage in stick built versus mobile homes was not the nature of our discussions. Our discussion surrounded how to move forward since this decision had been made on rolling out the program and moving to the tender phase of this project.

I will acknowledge, we don't have a comprehensive picture of how much, and the value of the BIP. We don't know what it costs us, we presume that there is a premium surrounding the BIP and related to the BIP when it is applied to projects, but we don't know what that is. I have proposed that April 1st this year, tomorrow, we start to track this cost through our new contracts registry, we track it for a year. At the end of a year we can have an informed discussion about this premium, we will be able to document it. I think at that point we will be in a much better position to do the type of cost benefit analysis that the Member is asking for. I think the Member has a very valid concern in asking for this information. I would love to be able to provide it. I have to tell her, Mr. Speaker, that I can't do so for a year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 125-15(3): Cost Benefit Analysis Of The BIP

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would much prefer action from the Ministers rather than gratitude. There is something strange that happens in this House. When the Cabinet Ministers get elected they are inflicted instantly with a case of amnesia.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bell doesn't have to do a year of study. He knows all of the issues inside out, upside down pertaining to this. He talked about this. And you know what? He doesn't need a year of registry study, he could just go out there and talk to the people. I know he got a call this morning, I got a call from a business in town who have been providing mobile homes and he tells me I cannot compete with factory costs. I buy lumber from here, I hire electricians from here, I hire plumbers here. I want to ask the Minister, what is the value of that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of RWED, Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 125-15(3): Cost Benefit Analysis Of The BIP

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do appreciate that it costs more to locate business in the North, the overhead is more expensive, it costs more to use northern plumbers, to use northern electricians if you are in the construction business. We do appreciate it, we do think it is very important. As I have said before, Mr. Speaker, the difficult challenge put to Cabinet was to deliver the most cost-effective housing in small communities who desperately need it, and for that, in weighing the balance we chose that at this point and in this instance that was the utmost priority and that is why we chose to waive the BIP. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 125-15(3): Cost Benefit Analysis Of The BIP

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been provided with a package of information that we understand was used by Cabinet. There is a figure of how much it costs to buy a mobile home somewhere, something like \$65,000, and they put five percent premium, 10 percent premium, 15 percent premium. I really was under the impression that Cabinet operates with better information than this. Mr. Speaker, the government has already engaged in the exemption of BIP on two major projects, and I cannot believe that they do this without taking into consideration the cost of it. Mr. Speaker, the cost savings might be about \$10,000 per mobile home, and it is still possible to deliver these mobile units, but buy local. Would the Minister bring that issue to the table? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of RWED, Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 125-15(3): Cost Benefit Analysis Of The BIP

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, certainly, and I know the Minister responsible for the

Housing Corporation presented us with some information. We have acknowledged that it was done on the best-case or worst-case scenario basis. We can't know what the true cost would have been because we don't know what the outcome of the tender would be. But I will certainly bring forward the points that the Member has made here today to our discussion at Cabinet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 125-15(3): Cost Benefit Analysis Of The BIP

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister bring to the table, as Minister responsible for the policy as well as maximizing economic benefits for the money that government spends, information that would counterbalance the apparent saving that we are going to get from buying from a factory in Edmonton, such as the taxes we are going to get, the consumer spending, the contributions that the businesses make, the transfer payments we get from Ottawa? Would the Minister get his people to crunch numbers and do a real cost benefit analysis rather than going for the cheapest? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of RWED, Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 125-15(3): Cost Benefit Analysis Of The BIP

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will certainly provide and have provided on an aggregate basis GDP in the Northwest Territories, and we can give an estimate of the value of the economy in the Northwest Territories. What becomes very difficult is to determine the incremental loss if one contract goes south as opposed to north. It is very difficult to then make the determination about what kind of a ripple effect that has. When people leave the Northwest Territories, what is the loss of tax? All of these types of things end up being done in the hypothetical. I think we could certainly put together information as far as the value of the economy in the North for our discussion tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 126-15(3): Tender For 22 Mobile Homes

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will pick up where my colleague from Range Lake left off. I learned my lesson yesterday, Mr. Speaker, in talking about documents that are provided from Cabinet to the regular Members, so I will stay clear of some of those numbers that were contained in those documents. The first question I would have for the Minister, and in fact for all of Cabinet really, is didn't they learn a lesson with the new Yellowknife Correctional Centre, and do they suffer from a case of amnesia? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Just to remind the Member, you have to be specific on who the question is for; you can't direct it to the whole Cabinet. Could you name the Minister?

MR. RAMSAY: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 126-15(3): Tender For 22 Mobile Homes

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I was not involved as a Minister in that initiative to waive the BIP for the correctional centre. In fact, this is the first request by the Housing Corporation to waive the BIP. So we had not done an analysis on what the results were with the correctional centre. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 126-15(3): Tender For 22 Mobile Homes

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that on Friday the tender closes; the one that is out there. For regular Members, this is our last opportunity in public to question the fellows on the other side of this House, and I almost feel like it is not enough time. We need to have some more debate on this, and I don't believe the regular Members have been supplied the information that would allow us to believe that hiding under the assumption that it is for nurses, it is for teachers and things like that doesn't preclude, Mr. Speaker, the fact that the government didn't do its homework on this, and the benefits are not staying in the North. I would like to ask another direct question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Can he cancel this tender, Mr. Speaker, and put the BIP back in it where it belongs so that the businesses here in the Northwest Territories, the manufacturing industry here in the Northwest Territories, have at least a fighting chance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 126-15(3): Tender For 22 Mobile Homes

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I answered this question a few days ago. There is opportunity, yes, to cancel. At what cost, I am not sure at this point. The request was proposed to me yesterday to look at extending the timelines by two weeks. We are looking at that, we have some legal people who have given us an opinion, whether we are in a position to do that at this point, do we have adequate time to give notice, we are not sure. We are checking also with the barge companies to see if we can move the dates given to us for shipping. Right now we are being told that those dates are firm, however, we are asking for some consideration. We are also being notified by them that there is a lot of oil and gas activity in the different communities that they have to ship to, they have other priorities, and they have community resupply. So our request is not a serious one to them; we are not a big customer. We are looking at that, we are asking them for reconsideration. So we are taking it to Cabinet tomorrow. We are going to have the discussion on whether we can go ahead with a two-week extension; but to waive the whole project at this point, I don't believe is something that we want to do.

I want to point out to the Member that we are also under extreme pressure from the communities not to do this, to continue to go ahead with this project and not waive it. It is something where there is a huge public outcry. We have heard it for years, we are trying to address it, we are trying to ensure that the communities in the Deh Cho, the

Beaufort and the Sahtu have houses for this year. We don't know what the effects of that will be by cancelling this project, and at this point, I will not consider advising or asking Cabinet. I wanted to just stress that point. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Again, just a reminder, we do have a lot of people waiting on the list to ask questions, and we are running the clock a little bit here. So could you be specific to your responses to the questions, and also when you ask the question. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 126-15(3): Tender For 22 Mobile Homes

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That doesn't leave me with a great deal of surety on this. The Cabinet knew about this last week, they know that today is the last day of session, Mr. Speaker. Why can't they make a decision, why do they have to wait until tomorrow, Mr. Speaker? Why is it that the government has to wait until tomorrow to get together to make a decision like this? I can't for the life of me think of a reason why, except for that they won't be able to be asked in public again why they waived the BIP on this. Mr. Speaker, does the tender actually split the cost of the units with the setup of the units, and how is that going to be managed when the actual units arrive in the communities they are scheduled to go to? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 126-15(3): Tender For 22 Mobile Homes

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the contract is a contract for commodity, we have the detail here. It spells out the technical information that we were looking for. We are looking for a best-cost scenario. It is only for the mobile homes at this point; FOB Hay River for the bargaining communities, and the communities that are on the road system, FOB there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 126-15(3): Tender For 22 Mobile Homes

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just one final supplementary. Is it the government's intention to waive the BIP on the setup of these units as well when they get into the communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 126-15(3): Tender For 22 Mobile Homes

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for the setup will be handled by our LHOs. The BIP on this whole initiative was waived for all of it, I believe. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Question 127-15(3): Review Of The Rent Scale Program For Public Housing

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation is on the hot seat, maybe we will just carry on with some questions on his portfolio.

---Laughter

I wanted to ask the Minister, in light of the CMHC's plans to eliminate all funding for public housing in Canada including the NWT by 2038, and that the conundrum of the NWT Housing Corporation is how are they going to raise their own revenue to retain the current level of public housing programs. One thing in the public housing program that has been a real crutch for the staff and the clients in public housing is the rent scale program, which leaves the local housing authorities with a very high level of outstanding receivables every year that the government tends to write off. It is a disincentive for people that are seeking full-time employment, and it provides many loopholes in the system where people are getting away with not paying their fair share of rent. It has been a concern for many Members that are both clients and just regular community members in my constituency, and I am sure others. I am wondering if the department and the Minister will commit to a comprehensive review of the rent scale program, which will address the concerns of LHOs and public housing clients, and not going with just basically what the headquarters staff recommendations are to adjustments in the program and how they will affect the public at large. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, two questions.

Return To Question 127-15(3): Review Of The Rent Scale Program For Public Housing

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is housing theme week.

---Laughter

The issue by the Member is a serious one. It is something that has also been noted by the Auditor General that it is an issue that has to be focused on. We have been attempting to improve our collections. We have, over the last couple of years, seen drastic improvement. We still have a number of tenants who are in arrears. Our whole social program is based and assessed on tenants' ability to pay, with a ceiling of 30 percent. I will take that back for a review. It may be time that we do that, and I will get back to the Member with some time frames as to when that will happen. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 127-15(3): Review Of The Rent Scale Program For Public Housing

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his commitment to doing some kind of departmental review. Has the Housing Corporation ever considered the approach that the Nunavut government has been taking on their outstanding rent receivables that they have considered in their new rent scale program? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 127-15(3): Review Of The Rent Scale Program For Public Housing

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't personally reviewed the initiative by the Nunavut government. However, I will take the first opportunity to do so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 127-15(3): Review Of The Rent Scale Program For Public Housing

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look forward to receiving some recommendations out of that review of the Nunavut rent scale because I think it works, and it takes a different approach and bases everything on the previous year's taxable income of their clients.

Could the Minister instruct his department to come back within the next few months with some documentation on some well researched and consulted recommendation on changes to our current rent scale program? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 127-15(3): Review Of The Rent Scale Program For Public Housing

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the years we have looked at a number of different ways to assess rent for people in the most need, mostly in public housing. We have determined that our system has been the most responsive, as we do monthly assessments. There have been a number of initiatives raised now in this House to take a look at different ways we can improve, or look at changes. I am always willing to do that. I thank the Member for bringing some of those to my attention. I will also take in the request from the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes for the flat rent scales and come back with some of our comments on it and provide it to the Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Question 128-15(3): Improving The Budget Approval Process

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I will direct this question to the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat. With reference to my Member's statement and budgeting cycle, while the government might be a government function, can the Minister explain to me what role as a regular Member do I have in terms in influencing the budget for the benefits of my constituents and my riding in the near future?

AN HON. MEMBER: Good question.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 128-15(3): Improving The Budget Approval Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our consensus style of government allows Members more than any other jurisdiction to be involved in the development of the budget. For example, we sat down as 19 Members and discussed what fiscal strategy we would use, and going forward on that, we started building the budget. We know that our timeline was very tight, but coming forward to the next system, Members will be directly involved in the business planning process from that three-year business plan process. We will then take the comments of Members and develop a draft main estimates. Then again Members will be able to review those draft main estimates and we will further take those comments and then develop them into the main estimates that are before the House, like at this time. So there are a number of opportunities where Members will be involved in the development of that process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 128-15(3): Improving The Budget Approval Process

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just a follow-up on the business plan cycle for the Minister responsible. I would also like to ask the Minister what commitments he will assure me that I can and will have active participation in the leading of the direction of our government in this business plan cycle, because I am given to understand that plans may already be under foot in terms of setting up the business plan for our July session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 128-15(3): Improving The Budget Approval Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again the actual work that would begin on the business plan process doesn't begin until June. There are a number of broad strategies that Members are aware of when we talk about what we will do with the effectiveness and efficiency of our government overall, with the partnerships that we want to work on and develop in the Northwest Territories. So there is already input at that level. Mr. Speaker, for the Members, there will definitely be a process that they will be involved in, and as Minister responsible I will be seeking information from them as we go down and develop some of the scenarios even before we put them into the business plan. So I will commit to start seeking that information. Members might not all agree with what is on the table, so there will be some tough choices to make in the future, and I intend to involve all of the Members in that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 128-15(3): Improving The Budget Approval Process

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, throughout discussing the budget here for the past two weeks the biggest concern, of course, is how do we as regular Members help our government in the exercise of reducing \$20 million in each of the next two years. My recent

experience kind of concerns me as how much input will we really have. Can the Minister again explain to me how we can have input into reducing the size of our expenditures in order to match our revenue?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 128-15(3): Improving The Budget Approval Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we went through this process and committee Members saw the draft mains, comments that were said about what we should look at for saving money and saving initiatives, cost-saving measures that were said through the committee process have been taken and will be looked at as we step forward. As now Members are aware of certain areas we should look at, Members suggested, for example, Mr. Speaker, a zero-based budgeting exercise. I think as a government we should seriously look at using that as an exercise as we develop the next budget process. So there are a number of ways. As comments are made in this forum here, as we went through the draft mains in Committee of the Whole, as committee Members went through them in committee themselves with each department, there will be that direct interaction that we will have from regular Members and Ministers. As well, if Members have ideas they want us to look at as we begin that development, please, as I stated, I am looking for any options that are available to us for coming up with the next \$20 million in cost avoidance and savings. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 128-15(3): Improving The Budget Approval Process

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for that response. I just want to get some assurances that before the July session that I don't want to be in the position where I am given a binder, and that there is nothing I can do about it no matter how much I kick and scream. So I am just looking for direct input into that process, and I would just like to get the assurance of the Minister again that yes, indeed, I am a part of this government, and that I will and can have input into our budget as it concerns me for the remainder of my term. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 128-15(3): Improving The Budget Approval Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we should also say that Members are involved in, for example, setting the priorities of this government, what are high priorities. So it is not all about cutting, we are still spending \$1 billion in the Northwest Territories. So it is how we spend that billion dollars, what are the high priorities of this Assembly, and we will take those and look at areas of lower priority and do some shuffling of the deck. That will include involvement from Members, we need that input. We have heard comments already on some of the areas of importance here. A lot of

the budget though will be based on existing programs, what we spend on schools and students in schools, what we spend on health care services. So although there is some flexibility, there are also some parameters that will set up the bulk of the business plan process. As I stated, I intend to include Members as we go through this process so that there is some involvement. At the end of the day, there are still going to be those who are not happy with what's on the deck, not with all of it. So we're going to work with the Members and try to build what we can best come up with as a balance for the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 129-15(3): Implementing The Action Plan On Tuberculosis

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago, I asked the Minister of Health and Social Services to table some information on TB in the Northwest Territories, and this morning I received a report on the action plan for TB in the Northwest Territories. They had an expert do the work, and this report included 26 recommendations to improve the Northwest Territories TB program. It talks about early detection and decreasing the spread of this contagious disease. Mr. Speaker, in light of that, I would like to ask the Minister if he is willing to commit to work with the Minister of Education in terms of ventilation, to prevent the spread of TB in the Chief Albert Wright School where there are ventilation issues and overcrowding of the students. The health of our students is of concern to our community of Tulita. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 129-15(3): Implementing The Action Plan On Tuberculosis

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government, as a department, we're committed to the recommendations made with regard to TB and responding to the need to better deal with that particular situation. My comments to situations that may involve the school is that yes, I will give the commitment that we will be working closely with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. We have meetings planned in the near future with the social envelope to talk about issues where we have common concerns and obligations. So that will be on the list.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 129-15(3): Implementing The Action Plan On Tuberculosis

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Also in the report to date, in 2004, there were five new cases of TB reported in the Northwest Territories. It's my understanding from looking at the report that TB is a quiet disease. Early detection and surveillance of TB in the North is required. I'm mostly talking about small communities like Colville Lake. I want to ask the Minister how does the department propose to educate and implement this action plan in small communities like Colville Lake where there are minimal health services by such large centres like Inuvik, Hay

River and Yellowknife in terms of the TB strategy in the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 129-15(3): Implementing The Action Plan On Tuberculosis

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will be working with the Sahtu health board that has been set up in the Sahtu. We will be working with, of course, Inuvik through the transition period. We have the staff out of headquarters, we have the staff at the regional level, as well as the staff in the nursing stations. We've made a special effort to ensure that our protocols are up to date, that we have the proper checks and balances in place to ensure that the issue of TB is front and centre, and we encourage people to get checked. So we are going to be working with all the communities in the Northwest Territories to make sure that we stay on top of the issue of TB.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 129-15(3): Implementing The Action Plan On Tuberculosis

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister about the training programs. I know you have been working with the Sahtu health board and the other communities. I want to ask about the training programs in the regions. In the report you talk about the Inuvik regional health board, the Hay River regional health board and so forth in terms of the training programs for the smaller communities; especially in the Sahtu, I'm not too sure. Has the department given any indications in terms of providing some training in the Sahtu communities in terms of the TB? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 129-15(3): Implementing The Action Plan On Tuberculosis

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Member that we are fully committed to involving the Sahtu, and at the time that report was drafted and written it was done when the Sahtu was still part of the Inuvik region. In any future reports, they will recognize that there is a separate health board and authority in the Sahtu. But the point of the question being that every community in the Northwest Territories is going to be paid attention to when it comes to dealing with tuberculosis. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? No, there are not. You have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Jim Beaver who is with the aboriginal policing directorate. He's in the gallery today. He was attending the opening of the North Slave Correctional Centre earlier today. With him is MJ Patterson who is with the Department of Justice, the corrections policy officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

----Applause

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

MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rarely do I have the opportunity to recognize family members in the gallery, and today I have the pleasure of recognizing Mr. Brian Campbell, my brother-in-law; my nephew, Josh, and his companion, Rose. Welcome to the gallery.

----Applause

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to recognize a constituent: Major Karen Hoeft. Thank you.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following Mr. Allen's comments, I would also like to recognize Brian Campbell, a one-time hockey player I think in Inuvik with the...(inaudible)...Flyers. He was a good hockey player too.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Allen.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 17-15(3): Rent Assessment For Seniors In Public Housing

MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is addressed to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

1. Would the Minister provide a detailed explanation specifically to the following he quoted in his Return to Oral Question 23-15(3)? "In addition, this proposal included another significant change in that senior's households would now be assessed rent."
2. Would the Minister also verify if this is a major policy shift from where seniors, who do not now pay any rents to where there is contemplation to reintroduce rents to seniors?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, written questions. Mr. Yakeleya.

Written Question 18-15(3): Power Rates

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is to the Honourable Joe Handley, Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation.

1. Can the Minister provide a current dollar estimate on a one-rate power structure that would provide an adequate rate of return to the NWT Power Corporation?
2. Can the Minister provide information on the project costs to maintain the NWT power subsidy program at current rates over the next five years?
3. Can the Minister provide the Assembly with information on the direction provided to the board of directors of the NWT Power Corporation in making the next general rate application?
4. Can the Minister provide information on costs incurred by the NWT Power Corporation in examining and pursuing the expansion of the hydro power system to date? This accounting should show the money provided to the Power Corporation by the GNWT, as well as the money the Power Corporation has expended from its retained earnings.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, written questions. Mr. Yakeleya.

Written Question 19-15(3): Harvesting Assistance Program And The Income Support Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on the harvesting assistance program.

Can the Minister confirm whether harvests' assistance payments are being clawed back from harvesters, including Sahtu, Gwich'in and/or Inuvialuit land claim beneficiaries under the income support program and, if so, can he provide the rationale for these clawbacks?

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 4-15(3): Request For Travel Expenditures By Department

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a written question asked by Ms. Lee on March 22, 2004, regarding the request for travel expenditures by department.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a report summarizing GNWT travel expenditures by department for the fiscal periods 1999-00 to 2003-04.

This report provides a summary of departmental travel expenditures for these fiscal periods, adjusted for the non-discretionary travel previously identified to Members. The information was compiled from the financial information system and has not been audited. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 8 returns to written questions. Mr. Bell.

Return To Written Question 14-15(3): Government Investment Into The Northern Manufacturing Industry Over The Last 10 Years

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. David Ramsay on March 29, 2004, regarding government investment into the northern manufacturing industry over the last 10 years.

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has a number of programs that support manufacturing in the NWT. The business development fund provides contributions to a variety of businesses for a wide range of needs. The BDF contributions, plus additional Ministers' contributions, in the amount of almost \$4 million have been provided since 1995 to businesses falling within the manufacturing category. Contribution tracking delineated sectors beginning in 1995. The range of businesses with this category is from individual arts and crafts producers to large businesses.

The NWT Business Credit Corporation provides loans to NWT businesses. Loans in the amount of \$5.255 million were provided to manufacturing businesses since 1998, the first year that sector distinctions were made in BCC annual reports.

In addition to these programs, RWED has assisted both the Northern Manufacturers' Association and a Business Advisory Panel. The Business Advisory Panel was established to undertake a review and make recommendations on supporting the manufacturing sector in the NWT. Total assistance for these groups was approximately \$164,000. The Northern Manufacturers' Association has been inactive since 2003.

The GNWT has also supported the manufacturing sector in other ways. Total purchases by the NWT Housing Corporation from northern manufacturers from 1993 to 2003-04 were \$18.755 million.

With the development of diamond mines, the GNWT lobbied extensively for value-added processing in the NWT. That lobbying effort was backed up by the provision of loan guarantees to attract diamond cutting and polishing facilities to the North. These guarantees amount to \$19.8 million.

In summary, this total investment in manufacturing amounts to just over \$48 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I am in receipt of two returns to written questions. The first one is a written question asked to the Premier by Mr. Braden on March 22, 2004, regarding land and resources devolution negotiations.

The second is a written question asked to the Honourable Brendan Bell by Mr. Yakeleya on March 29, 2004, regarding federal funding for northern oil and gas development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 5-15(3): Land And Resources Devolution Negotiations

The Member asked whether all of the parties are now fully engaged in devolution negotiations. While the parties are all engaged in the overall negotiation process of working towards an agreement-in-principle, the Aboriginal Summit is recruiting a new chief negotiator and doing some internal work on their mandate. Consequently, Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories have agreed to the summit's request to postpone the next negotiations session until April. In the meantime, the GNWT officials continue to undertake the necessary research, analysis and other internal work required for the negotiation of an agreement-in-principle.

The Member also asked about whether the previously agreed to negotiation schedule with a target date for the implementation of a final devolution agreement by 2006 is still achievable.

I believe we can still achieve the targets for a final agreement and effective date as set out in the framework agreement. Although the target date for an agreement-in-principle specified in the framework agreement has passed, all parties have committed to an agreement-in-principle for the summer of 2004.

This should not affect the other target dates for a final agreement in 2005 and an effective date of 2006.

The Member enquired about the mandate of the GNWT negotiations in this critical process. The previous government approved a general negotiations mandate. The mandate will continue to be reviewed and amended as negotiations progress and to ensure our negotiators will pursue the priorities of this government. As major changes to the mandate are considered, I will ensure that Members of this Assembly will have input because, as the Member rightly pointed out, this is a critical negotiation process and all of us need to work together to ensure success.

Return To Written Question 12-15(3): Northern Oil and Gas Development

In their budget, the federal government has put \$75 million for northern oil and gas development. There is also another \$10 million for 2004-2005 in the northern economic development strategy. Can the Minister please provide details that explain the following?

1. "What this funding is for?"

In his speech from the Throne, the federal Minister of Finance made a commitment to responsible energy development in the North. The federal budget 2004 provides \$75 million over three years to increase federal and regional environmental assessment capacity and streamline the regulatory process. The federal government technical budget document states, "This announcement will also ensure resources are available to conduct scientific research on current and longer-term environmental challenges associated with development in the Mackenzie Valley, Mackenzie Delta and the Beaufort Sea." That document also shows budget amounts of \$20 million for 2004-05 and \$30 million for 2005-06.

The budget also provides for \$90 million over five years to support a northern strategy for economic development.

This allocation is directed at all northerners, including approximately 50,000 aboriginal people living in northern Canada. Ten million dollars of this funding has been allocated to the 2004-2005 years. There is no information available as to the amount that will be allocated to the Northwest Territories.

2. "Who can access this funding?"
3. "How can you access this funding?"
4. "When will this funding be available?"

With respect to the \$75 million for northern oil and gas development, the federal government has not yet made the details public. The understanding of the Government of the Northwest Territories is that this funding represents federal program dollars that will flow to a number of federal departments and agencies as part of the preparation for oil and gas development. These agencies likely include:

- DIAND
- Natural Resources Canada
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- National Energy Board
- Transport Canada

This commitment of additional funding is viewed as a positive initiative as it represents increased federal attention to northern oil and gas development. However, the GNWT will continue to work with federal counterparts and push for additional resources in areas where required.

5. "What other programs does the GNWT have to help the Sahtu take advantage of oil and gas development and what is the best way for the Sahtu to access them?"

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development regional staff, in partnership with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, industry and others utilize the maximizing northern employment program for regional training initiatives. In addition, program funding from the Mackenzie Valley development project may be used to assist with regional initiative related to oil and gas development. In 2002-2003, the Business Development Subcommittee was formed to ensure that NWT businesses participate in the sustainable benefits from oil and gas exploration and related sustainable economic development opportunities. The committee is currently investigating the adequacy and availability of business financing in the context of the Mackenzie Valley oil and gas development.

While not targeted specifically to the development of the oil and gas sector, RWED has a number of programs that are accessible to businesses in general. These programs include the business development fund, grants to small businesses, as well as term loans, loan guarantees and contract security provided by the NWT Business Credit Corporation. The NWT Development Corporation can also participate with businesses through minority equity investments.

Furthermore, the NWT provides a contribution to the Sahtu Business Development Centre to assist with the operational costs of the organization. This organization

provides business counselling services and is an additional source of business loans within the region.

These programs can be accessed through the local economic development officer, the regional business development officer, or the Sahtu Business Development Centre. Staff can provide assistance to the prospective clients in determining the needs and feasibility of a proposal. They can also assist in identifying which program or programs would be an appropriate source of financing for a specific proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 27-15(3): Promoting Independence: NWT Housing Corporation 2002-2003 Annual Report

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Promoting Independence: NWT Housing Corporation 2002-2003 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Roland.

Tabled Document 28-15(3): NWT Liquor Commission 49th Annual Report, 2002-2003

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents to table. I wish to table the following document entitled NWT Liquor Commission 49th Annual Report, 2002-2003.

Tabled Document 29-15(3): List Of Interactivity Transfers For The Period April 1, 2003 To March 15, 2004

Mr. Speaker, as well, by section 32.1(2) of the Financial Administration Act I wish to table the following document entitled List of Interactivity Transfers for the Period April 1, 2003, to March 15, 2004.

Tabled Document 30-15(3): Travel Expenditures By Department For The Fiscal Periods 1999-00 To 2003-04

Mr. Speaker, further to my Return to Written Question 4-15(3) I wish to table the following document entitled Travel Expenditures by Department for the Fiscal Periods 1999-2000 to 2003-2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Braden.

Tabled Document 31-15(3): News Release - Increase In Child Benefit Aids Low Income Yukon Families

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. One is a press release from the Government of Yukon dated March 29th in which it outlines increases of 50 percent in child benefit allowances.

Tabled Document 32-15(3): St. Christopher House - A Primer On The National Child Benefit Supplement (NCSB) Clawback For Advocates

The second document, Mr. Speaker, from St. Christopher House, an advocacy house for social causes. The document is titled A Primer on the National Child Benefit Supplement Clawback for Advocates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 33-15(3): Statutory Declaration Of Residence For Mr. Roger Allen

MR. SPEAKER: Item 13, tabling of documents. Pursuant to subsection 19(b) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act indemnities, allowances and expenses regulations, I wish to table a statutory declaration of residence for Mr. Roger Allen, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, who is seeking reimbursement for his capital accommodation pursuant to section 24(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act for fiscal year 2004-2005.

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 6-15(3): Spirit And Intent Of The Business Incentive Policy

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, April 2, 2004, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that the Government of the Northwest Territories use the spirit and intent of the business incentive policy to its fullest advantage in promoting and growing NWT-based businesses;

And further, that the government undertake to conduct a comprehensive cost and benefit analysis of the business incentive policy and table it in the House during the fall 2004 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

Motion 7-15(3): Support For Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Development

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, April 2, 2004, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that the 15th Legislative Assembly is committed to working cooperatively in support of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline;

And further that this Legislative Assembly is committed to working cooperatively and endorses the efforts of the Premier and Executive Council to seek with the aboriginal governments and the Government of Canada the control of our natural resources and the sharing among northern governments of resource revenues arising from development;

And furthermore that this Legislative Assembly urges the Government of the Northwest Territories, in partnership

with aboriginal governments, to continue support for the development of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline;

And furthermore that the Government of the Northwest Territories seek to maximize the benefits and mitigate the adverse impacts to NWT residents and communities that will result from the development of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Delorey.

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

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

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 6-15(3): Spirit And Intent Of The Business Incentive Policy

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the intent of the business incentive policy, as stated by the Premier in a return to written question on March 25, 2004, is to support the development and growth of NWT businesses;

AND WHEREAS northern businesses support the NWT economy by purchasing local goods and services, providing jobs and training, and reinvesting their earnings;

AND WHEREAS, due to the higher costs of operating a business and developing new products in the NWT, northern businesses may need preference adjustments to compete successfully with southern firms for government contracts and tenders;

AND WHEREAS there are instances where the government has waived the business incentive policy;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that the Government of the Northwest Territories use the spirit and intent of the business incentive policy to its fullest advantage in promoting and growing NWT-based businesses;

AND FURTHER, that the government undertake to conduct a comprehensive cost and benefit analysis of the business incentive policy and table it in the House during the fall 2004 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

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

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the business incentive policy is an issue that has been before us for quite some time now. An enormous amount of time was spent on this issue during the life of the last Assembly. We tried to deal with this business incentive policy in many different ways trying to make changes to it.

It was obvious from the discussions that we had with the public and industry during the last government in proposing to change the business incentive policy, that industry was not consulted in the changes that they were proposing. For the most part, they didn't realize where the changes had come from and they were not to address the issues that the northern businesses had issues with.

The contract that has brought this motion forward now that we're talking about was 22 mobile homes, or 42, whichever way you want to look at it, Mr. Speaker, is before us and brought this issue to the forefront again. On this particular issue, in bringing this motion forward I want to speak for a moment on the fact that I am going to support the Minister going ahead with this contract based on the fact that there is a need in the communities. The Executive Council has put a decision forward to do this to meet the demands in communities, however, I would support it to the tune of these first 22 trailers, and I am going to watch very closely and fight for the government to make a decision and look at northern industry, whether it's through a pilot project or a contract of some kind with northern businesses, to be able to build these units in the future in the North and create an industry that can handle that.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that there are many concerns with the BIP. It has been said that the Government of the Northwest Territories doesn't get any value for its money by using the business incentive policy. However, Mr. Speaker, when we dealt with this policy before it was very obvious that the government cannot quantify whether they do get value for money with using the business incentive policy or not. There are many things that northern businesses do by using the business incentive policy that we have to take into consideration when we're trying to determine whether the government does get any value for this policy.

I also heard that companies abuse this policy. But, Mr. Speaker, we have to remember that the policy was put in place for businesses to be able to establish themselves in the North and build capacity in the North. Businesses that have been successful in doing that, Mr. Speaker, have established their business here, they have built capacity, they employ our people, they contribute to our economy and, Mr. Speaker, for some part they have created a competitive base here in the Northwest Territories that in a lot of cases and a lot of contracts that go out take the business incentive policy right out of the picture anyway because it's one northern firm bidding against another one. In those cases, it's very hard to qualify what savings if any or what extra costs the business incentive policy puts to programs and contracts that the government is putting out there.

One of the biggest problems that we heard the last time with the business incentive policy in the last government was the fact that the business incentive policy in its present form is not policed enough, and that's what leads to abuse of the policy. There was nothing in the last set of negotiations that even indicated that there was going to be an increase in the policy, other than creating your registry for the business incentive policy. I think that that is still a major problem with this policy, is the policing of it and making companies and government live up to the intent of the policy when it was first put in place.

So, Mr. Speaker, I bring this motion forward to draw attention of this issue to the government, and I think that

we have to. It's a policy of this government and I think that we have to show clear direction in this and leadership in following our own policy. I know the Minister has said that the policy or guidelines, but I think it goes further than that, Mr. Speaker. I think that we can't use it to our advantage when we want to, and justify that and turn around on another occasion and waive it just so that it suits our needs. What can we do with the policy? I think that the motion speaks to what we can do with this policy. I think that the Minister and the government should look at doing a comprehensive analysis of what this policy is, and I know that there must be lots of contracts out there that they do. Come back to this House and explain to the Members exactly what the costs are, and give us a good reason to either support or not support the policy.

But one of the biggest problems has been all along -- and industry has been asking for it -- is what are you basing your decisions on? Waiving the BIP or making changes to the BIP, what does it cost government, what benefits are we getting, and what is it costing us? I think in looking at that we have to look at a lot of issues, not just the price that companies are putting on bidding on a contract. I think they have to look at the northern content in that. How many jobs are we creating? How much money is staying in the North? I think that those are some of the very basic questions that the government has a responsibility to produce for Members to be able to make an informed decision.

So for my part in bringing this motion forward, I want to force the government or strongly encourage the government to take some action to get some concrete information on this business incentive policy so we, as Members and as a House, can decide on what we're going to do with this policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague from Hay River North has already made reference to the words, the time that this Assembly has spent on the business incentive policy not only in the last few days but over the last few years. I would not extend this, but to say that from the point of view of the business community who are principally the clients and this government's partners in developing and advancing this Northwest Territories, that the plea is for consistency, stability and integrity in the way we go about our business.

Markets grow and evolve. They have certainly done so since this business incentive policy was first introduced many, many years ago. There was a major rethinking and some retooling of the business incentive policy done late in the life of the last Assembly, Mr. Speaker. So we're just a few months into the next iteration of the business incentive policy.

For the most part, I felt that those amendments were constructive, and indeed they demonstrated that our markets are evolving. The point has been made that as competition grows among our northern established businesses, there should be less and less need for a policy of this kind. It was really created to help establish enterprises so that they could get on their feet and have some kind of parity with lower-cost southern businesses, and once they're going they can carry on on their own merits and be competitive. In the community of

Yellowknife here, things have certainly changed a lot in the 40 years that I've lived here. In the last 10 years, they have changed remarkably. We have such a strong, diverse and competitive business community here. There is, I think, less and less need for this kind of government intervention. Interference in the market is not the right word, but influence. It's a demonstration, I think, of how a policy like this has helped our economy and our society. But Yellowknife is very much an exception to the NWT. There are smaller communities and our regional centres and then down to our very smallest communities, Mr. Speaker, that are continuing to try to grow their competitive business community. This is where businesses like this, that I continue to believe, need consistency.

But I would go back to what the message is and we continue to get messages from the business community saying that the way we manage this is not sending out a clear signal of consistency and stability. To the extent to which Cabinet has discretion to come in and amend, change or decide to defer or ignore this policy is not only putting me off balance and some of my colleagues, but the business community. This is what this motion is, Mr. Speaker. It's a plea and a first resolution to use the spirit and intent of the business incentive policy to its fullest advantage. In those words, Mr. Speaker, spirit and intent, comes aspects of integrity, of consistency, of stability that we have to do better on when it comes to working with the people, our partners, in the business community.

Obviously I speak very strongly in support of this motion and hope that our colleagues in the government will indeed take our lead and look at the spirit and intent of this policy. It's a good one.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. The Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Members for making it possible to conclude our session here with these motions being proposed. Mr. Speaker, I obviously speak in favour of this motion. It is really disheartening, Mr. Speaker, for a returning Member like myself to have to go through what we have gone through in the last two weeks. We like to think that what we say here matters and that what we fight about is remembered, but for some reason, after we have gone through all that we went through with regard to the North Slave Correctional Centre for what seemed like forever in the last Assembly and all of the review that we went through in the last Assembly, we are right back to square one.

Mr. Speaker, governments have policies, laws and roles, and that's one of the main things we do in this House and there are reasons for that. It sets a direction. It sets out direction and intention of the government and those policies are made based on the questions of public interest, public desire and things the government wants to achieve. I believe if we have government policies and if we have any respect at all, we should be following those.

Mr. Speaker, I understand -- the Premiers have said it many times -- the government has a prerogative to exempt themselves from certain policies. I might agree with that but, Mr. Speaker, that has to be an exception and an exception with justification. Governments cannot be allowed to willy-nilly wake up one morning and say for this project we are going to exempt this and for that

project we will stick with this. Mr. Speaker, not only should they provide justification, but it should have good information. Everything I have heard in this House suggests to me that Cabinet has made these decisions on the basis of less than full information. Mr. Speaker, I do really hope the government will take to heart the content of this motion and the desire on the part of the Members on this side of the floor to speak to the Cabinet about the need to do this and what this motion is trying to achieve. In doing their cost-benefit analysis, I do hope the Ministers and Cabinet will not only just take into consideration how cheap they are going to get something if they bought it at cost in Edmonton, Las Vegas or anywhere. I can tell you, I am sure we can buy a lot of things cheaper down south but there are lots of other things that must be taken into consideration. Government has a role to be an example.

Like I stated earlier in the House, Mr. Speaker, I have gotten lots of phone calls from businesses and they say in government exempting themselves from this policy, why does the government expect the businesses to run at a loss? They have to be able to recover their cost of buying lumber in the North, hiring people in the North and paying a higher cost. That has to be factored in and analyzed against the benefits these businesses provide in terms of doing the work, paying the taxes, hiring northern labour, training our northern labour and providing constant service whether it's building houses, building buildings or providing furniture, computer services, the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, what has been lacking and what has been the most troublesome about what we are going through here about the government willy-nilly exempting themselves from policy is what Mr. Braden has already stated. That is the lack of stability and predictability that businesses have to deal with, because they never know from one minute to the next whether projects the government does would have BIP on it or not.

Mr. Speaker, Don Worrall, executive director of the NWT Construction Association, was on CBC and he asked a question of whether or not he should use the BIP or scrap it. The consensus of the businesses is you either have it, you use it or you scrap it. Don't apply it to one project and not another. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Worrall stated: "As businesspeople, they would recognize that arbitrarily and periodically abandoning your own policy just leads to uncertainty among investors and if you are trying to attract businesses here to set up shop or expand and create jobs, you do not want to be fostering uncertainty in the investment environment."

I believe that states the opinion of many business leaders, Mr. Speaker. If we are going to do business here, we need to know what the business environment is. If businesses want to make long-term commitments and invest in their plans, their shops, in training their labour and expanding, they need to know that they can rely on the word of the government and the policy.

Mr. Speaker, another thing that's really disturbing about what we are dealing with, and I know this policy speaks to the general spirit and intent of the policy, but I think a very important part of this is the role and importance that the Cabinet Members on that side place on the Members on this side. Mr. Speaker, we have a consensus government and consensus government may mean a lot of things, but one of the most important things I consider that is important is that we don't have party politics where

government comes into power and they set up their own agenda with opposition Members attacking the government from lists one to 10. I would like to think that as a consensus government that we are equal Members in this House and if there is going to be an exemption of government policy, because it has to be justified, but anything that has implications, we should have a say in that. We should not have to line up with everybody else and get a press release or learn what government is doing from a tender contract.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this motion is telling Cabinet that we expect to be counted. We expect to be consulted. Where there is an exemption of a policy like BIP, we expect to see the cost-benefit analysis. It should be completely embarrassing on the part of the government and all the number crunchers in that apparatus of the government and all the Ministers who sat around and made this decision to exempt themselves from the policy, that they have not done a comprehensive cost and benefit analysis. I think all they have to do is listen to the people, listen to the businesses, think about what they heard and understand that there are many factors that have to go into calculating benefits and cost than just simply figuring out how cheap whatever it is they are buying or building will be.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is an imbedded understanding in this legislature. We understand, appreciate and accept the need for sole-source contracts, negotiated contracts. They are practiced in many places. I remember the government defending to the teeth that we had to do sole-source contracts on fire suppression. That is \$20 million. The contract was only for two years, it was renewed for five. At that time, we were convinced of the merits because it's in our interest to protect our industry. It's in the interest to make sure that \$20 million doesn't fly south of 60, that all the training and all the investment on that project is worth keeping and that government is willing to pay the premium because in the end we don't pay the premium. That is the biggest misnomer that we have to dismiss right here and right now; that BIP costs money. It's only if you are counting dollars and cents how much cheaper you can get in raw numbers would you say that that costs money. Only if you are not taking into consideration what you get from taxation, from job creation and all the contributions that businesses and people make, then you would come to that false conclusion that the BIP costs money. The government has entered into a contract with the Gwich'in Tribal Council and we understand that that work will go to the Gwich'in government. We understand that and we accept that. So why is it that something like this comes up and we say we are going to get rid of that because we could get it for \$10,000 cheaper? I don't think we should continue to tolerate the complete lack of respect for the businesses and for the Members in this House, in the way the Cabinet make their decisions, Mr. Speaker. If they are going to not follow the norm and exempt themselves, I expect more information, justification and understanding than what they have shown so far.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think there is anybody out there who doesn't understand where I stand on this. I hope I don't have to speak about this so much again. I think the Cabinet gets the point. I hope the Minister and Cabinet and the government would take the full understanding of this motion and in calculating their cost-benefit analysis,

that they do a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis and not just how much an extra five or 10 percent might cost.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be supporting this motion and I thank the Members and this House for the opportunity to end this session by addressing this important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. The Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this motion. I would just like to make mention to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation that I am supportive of the endeavour of the provision of the modular unit that is laid out in the tender contract and brought before us on one or two occasions. However, I will support this motion because the people and the businesses I represent are confused. If we are going to have a policy, let's have a policy. Yes, the BIP costs our goods and services a bit more, but it does contribute and strengthen our economy, especially in the communities at the micro level. Therefore, I will support it based on that principle alone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In short, we are seeking clarity and consistency. With a government that has priorities all over the map, I want to say at the end of my term, I was part of a government that listened, then acted and achieved results on an issue that is of real importance to all northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know my colleagues have addressed this issue and this motion in my mind and I will applaud them for that. I won't take up too much more time on the motion this afternoon.

I think it's very sad that we had to go to the extent of drafting this motion today to present to the government. It should be embarrassing for the government that the regular Members on this side had to go to this length to tell the government that you have a policy and you should live by the policy. Either you are going to support the northern economy and the northern manufacturing industry or you aren't. That to me is the saddest thing of all this, Mr. Speaker, is that we have to draft this motion to try to send a message to the government that we want to be kept informed and we want to know what's going on and we don't take the waiving of the BIP on any contract lightly. We've got to define to our constituents and to the businesses that are out there what this government is doing and if we are not informed, we have a difficult time in doing that, Mr. Speaker.

So I am in full support of this motion and hopefully the government is paying attention and they are listening. As I mentioned earlier in my Member's statement, they didn't learn a lesson with what happened with the North Slave Correctional Centre. Again they chose to waive the BIP and look at the storm that it has caused. There is really no need for it, Mr. Speaker. The spirit and intent of this motion is to show the government that we are serious about this and we are not going to take no for an answer. We want some answers from the government. Again, I am supporting this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Delorey.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in closing, I have a few comments on this motion. I want to thank my colleagues for their comments and support on this motion. Mr. Speaker, I sense a strong willingness on the part of industry to take part in this process of dealing with the business incentive policy.

Mr. Speaker it's not a secret that a lot of businesses look to government for a portion of their business and a lot of businesses have built some capacity to supply a niche in the market that is created by government and to meet the requirements that government needs. For those businesses who have gone to the extent of building capacity and establishing in the North and are prepared to meet the government's needs, now is not a time to pull the rug out from under them and say we are going to sidestep our policy and go south because we don't think you are playing ball.

I think they are willing to sit down with government, with different departments, and if it's a dollar issue and it's not meeting the needs of the government now, I think they are willing to work with us and try to rectify that situation. Mr. Speaker, part of the reason I am supporting this contract of 22 trailers, I think the Housing Corporation has a lot to learn by going south with this contract. I don't believe southern contractors, if they fill this contract, will care less if these trailers are going to where it's 45 below for five or six months of the year. They will put them together for the cheapest price possible. I think there is a lot of benefit to have a northern contractor build these units because they live here. They know the northern climates and they know what needs to be in these units to meet the needs of the communities and I think there's a benefit to that.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will encourage Members of this House to support this motion and I encourage the government to live by the intent of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 16, motions. Mr. Ramsay.

Motion 3-15(3): Extended Adjournment Of The House To May 26, 2004, Carried

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Wednesday, March 31, 2004, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, May 26, 2004;

AND FURTHER, that anytime prior to May 26, 2004, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the

time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 16, motions. Mr. Pokiak.

Motion 4-15(3): Appointment Of The Human Rights Commission Members, Carried

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Northwest Territories Human Rights Act received assent on October 30, 2002;

AND WHEREAS section 16.(2) of the Human Rights Act provides that the commission is composed of such members, between three and five in number, as may be appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management was tasked with implementing the Human Rights Act and has recommended individuals to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make a recommendation to the Commissioner;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Kam Lake, that the following individuals be appointed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to the first Human Rights Commission for the Northwest Territories: Ms. Mary Pat Short of the town of Fort Smith, for a term of four years; Mr. Colin Baile of the city of Yellowknife, for a term of four years; Ms. Jolletta Larocque of the town of Hay River, for a term of four years; Mr. Lorne Gushue of the city of Yellowknife, for a term of two years; and, Ms. Rose Marie Kirby of the town of Inuvik, for a term of two years;

AND FURTHER that the Speaker be authorized to communicate the effective date of appointment to the Commissioner.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 16, motions. Mr. Bell.

Motion 5-15(3): Appointment Of The Director Of Human Rights, Carried

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Northwest Territories Human Rights Act received assent on October 30, 2002;

AND WHEREAS section 23.(1) of the Human Rights Act provides that the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint a director of human rights to carry out the responsibilities set in the act;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management was tasked with implementing the Human Rights Act and has recommended an individual to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make a recommendation to the Commissioner;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Nunakput, that Ms. Therese Boullard be appointed as the director of human rights for the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission during good behaviour for a term of four years by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories as recommended by the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER that the Speaker be authorized to communicate the effective date of appointment to the Commissioner.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 16, motions. Mr. Yakeleya.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent to deal with your motion.

Motion 7-15(3): Support For Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Development, Carried

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion is to support the Mackenzie Valley pipeline development.

WHEREAS the development of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline will be underway during the life of the 15th Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories resources should be developed in a manner that provides for the greatest benefit to all parties, including northern people, communities, businesses, governments and industry;

AND WHEREAS the construction of a natural gas pipeline through the Mackenzie Valley area will support the development of additional infrastructure which will benefit NWT communities;

AND WHEREAS the development of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline must occur in a sustainable manner that ensures the protection of our environment;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that the 15th Legislative

Assembly is committed to working cooperatively in support of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline;

AND FURTHER that this Legislative Assembly is committed to working cooperatively and endorses the efforts of the Premier and Executive Council to seek with aboriginal governments and the Government of Canada the control of our natural resources and the sharing amongst northern governments of resource revenues arising from development;

AND FURTHERMORE that this Legislative Assembly urges the Government of the Northwest Territories, in partnership with the aboriginal governments, to continue support for the development of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline;

AND FURTHERMORE that the Government of the Northwest Territories seeks to maximize the benefits and mitigate the adverse impacts to NWT residents and communities that will result from the development of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

----Applause

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 6: An Act To Amend The Payroll Tax Act, 1993 And The Income Tax Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Bill 6, an Act to Amend the Payroll Tax Act, 1993 and the Income Tax Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would amend the Payroll Tax Act, 1993 to increase the rate of the payroll tax. The bill would also amend the Income Tax Act. Alternative versions of the amendments to the Income Tax Act are included because Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, also amends the provisions of the Income Tax Act relating to individual income tax. Both versions of the amendments would amend the Income Tax Act to decrease individual income tax rates for persons with taxable incomes less than \$66,492 and to increase the amount that an individual may deduct from his or her tax payable. The second version would also clarify the provisions of the Income Tax Act relating to individual income tax in the event that An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, is not enacted. The changes to both the Payroll Tax Act, 1993 and the Income Tax Act would take effect on January 1, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been considerable discussion already in this Assembly, Mr.

Speaker, about a number of tax measures that this government has proposed, a couple of which we have already approved and two of which have yet to come. I've already said that I think the government has taken a positive step in putting these together in a bundle, so to speak, as the Minister of Finance did in his budget address. This helps everyone understand and comprehend what we've got ahead of us and what this government's plans are for how to manage our fiscal situation.

The principle of the payroll tax is fairly straightforward. It is a move that is within our limited authority to generate some of our own revenue by which we can get some of the wealth that is being earned by non-resident workers and keep that here. It is amply justified, Mr. Speaker, because in earning their living or part of their living here in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, those workers use much of the infrastructure such as airports, water, sewer and roads. All services, such as our Workers' Compensation Board network, for instance, our hospital and health care service system are here to help and support them. But through the normal taxation process we normally have, there is no recourse or way of getting some measure of payment or investment from them. So there's a very straightforward equity and balancing exercise as relates to how to get some of the wealth from southern-based workers to stay here in the North.

Where it becomes problematic is because it has to be equally applied. We have to have counterbalancing measures in our system so that northern residents who are assessed by the payroll tax are not penalized. Herein lies the problem for small and big businesses to administer this. For salaried workers who have to forego what would otherwise be discretionary money that they would get in their pay cheques, at least in part, are not determined until we all file our tax returns at the end of the year.

So we have these inequities to work out. By proposing that we're going to be doubling the payroll tax, but are we potentially doubling the administrative headaches? Are we potentially doubling the hit that we northerners are going to take on our disposable incomes because of this tax? I'm not going to get into a discussion or reasoning about that.

My plea here, as I stand here in favour of the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker, is to ask the Minister and the government to make the fullest possible communication plan on this bill so that when a committee goes forward to assess the public's view of this they are well informed, they have all the information before them, and while they may not agree with the idea of this tax, at least there is a solid base of information and understanding of what it does and what the impact is going to be on them.

With that, I think this is a progressive measure, but there is yet a communication effort that remains before we can, I guess as committee, effectively bring this bill back and report on it potentially or hopefully in the May session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 6 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to committee. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole, Item 21, third reading of bills; Bill 2, an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 2: An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 2 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Roland.

Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act, No. 2

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 3 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 4: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2003-2004

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2003-2004, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 4 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, I understand that her honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber and give assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, would you escort the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories into the Chamber?

Assent To Bills

COMMISSIONER (Hon. Glenna Hansen): Please be seated. Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills: Bill 1, Appropriation Act 2004-2005; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2; and, Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2003-2004. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 22, orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Governance and Economic Development committee upon adjournment, a meeting of the Board of Management upon adjournment of the GED meeting, and a meeting of the Social Programs committee tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 26th:

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. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Days

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 26, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

