



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session**

**Day 18**

**15<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, June 2, 2004**

Pages 687 - 710

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>687</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>687</b>
42-15(3) - MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS .....	687
43-15(3) - RECIPIENTS OF THE 2004 PREMIER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE .....	687
44-15(3) - NWT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 50 YEARS .....	688
45-15(3) - NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK - 2004 .....	688
46-15(3) - PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS.....	689
47-15(3) - WESTERN PREMIERS' CONFERENCE .....	689
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>690</b>
MR. MENICOCHÉ ON SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE PRESERVATION .....	690
MR. YAKELEYA ON ABORIGINAL YOUTH AND PARTNERS SOCIETY IN ALBERTA.....	690
MR. RAMSAY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE OFFICE .....	691
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON NORTHERN PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.....	691
MR. HAWKINS ON ALLOWABLE INCOME SUPPORT EXPENSES .....	692
MR. BRADEN ON NATIONAL DIAMOND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS .....	692
MR. POKIAK ON RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING STUDENTS IN NUNAKPUT.....	692
MR. ALLEN ON SPRING ACTIVITIES IN THE DELTA REGION .....	693
MR. VILLENEUVE ON GNWT MANAGEMENT ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM .....	693
MS. LEE ON REPATRIATION OF CLIENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES .....	693
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>694</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>694</b>
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>705</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>707</b>
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b> .....	<b>707</b>
13-15(3) - Appointment to Standing Committees .....	707
14-15(3) - Extended Adjournment of the House to October 13, 2004 .....	707
<b>MOTIONS</b> .....	<b>707</b>
13-15(3) - APPOINTMENT TO STANDING COMMITTEES.....	707
14-15(3) - EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO OCTOBER 13, 2004.....	708
<b>THIRD READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>708</b>
BILL 5 - TLICHO COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT ACT.....	708
BILL 11 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 1, 2004-2005 .....	708
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>709</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, June 2, 2004****Members Present**

Mr. Allen, Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul 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, Mr. Zoe

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good morning, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 42-15(3): Ministerial Assignments**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first congratulate you on your new position as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and welcome the honourable David Krutko as the new Member of the Executive Council. I look forward to a continued constructive and cooperative working relationship with you both.

I am pleased to inform this assembly that I have assigned the following portfolio responsibilities effective 5:00 p.m. today.

The honourable David Krutko will be Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The Honourable Michael McLeod will be Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

The Honourable Floyd Roland will be responsible for the Public Utilities Board.

Mr. Speaker, all other assignments remain unchanged. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**Minister's Statement 43-15(3): Recipients Of The 2004 Premier's Award For Excellence**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to announce this year's recipients of the Premier's Award for Excellence.

The Premier's Award for Excellence was created to recognize GNWT employees who have distinguished themselves through work-related achievements and contributions.

Today, I honour the following employees and teams for their accomplishments.

Bob Bailey is an assistant deputy minister with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Since his time with RWED, he has shown a strong commitment to its overall goals and initiatives. This has included developing new important legislation. Bob's strong belief and support of teamwork in the department has also been a key factor in the department's success.

Bill Hval is the airport manager at the Fort Smith Airport. His dedication to providing quality service to both clients and carriers is very apparent. Bill has been recognized in particular for his strong commitment and initiative in working with the community of Fort Smith in developing a fire abatement project that has practical benefits for the community.

Doug Doan is an assistant deputy minister with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Doug has shown a strong commitment to the department's overall goals and initiatives and has played an important role in ensuring the department work together to meet its objectives. These initiatives undertaken by RWED are often quite complex and require a great deal of commitment. Doug has shown that he is committed to helping provide quality programs that meet the department's mandate to promote sustainable development.

Bill Pogson is the acting director of corrections services. Bill has played a key role in assisting managers of the various correctional facilities to develop effective programs and staffing levels. He provided the leadership with new outreach programs at two young offender facilities that provide core programming for youth in the community who were considered at risk for incarceration, lead the conversion of a facility from youth to adult offenders and lead much of the successful establishment of the new North Slave correctional facilities.

The occupational certification team has been key in creating new occupational standards for the Northwest Territories. This team includes Colleen Proctor and Angela Littlefair from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and David Earle from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. This team invested a significant amount of time in gathering information regarding current standards for specific occupations and in developing a certification process. Occupational certification benefits employers, employees and the general public through the establishment and recognition of occupational standards.

The NWT teacher induction program team includes Amanda Mallon and Muriel Tolley from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. This team has developed and implemented a program that supports new teachers in their first year in the classroom. It provides an orientation, ongoing mentoring and assistance from experienced teachers. This mentoring program is now in

its third year and has proven to be successful in retaining teachers. Their efforts represent the government's commitment to quality teaching in the North.

The Stanton benchmark study team is comprised of Robert Adolph, Corinne Devitt, Marta Moir and Heather Webb from the Stanton Territorial Health Authority. This team has demonstrated significant initiative and effort in preparing the Stanton Territorial Hospital submission for the Canadian-wide benchmarking study. This study will allow Stanton to measure its services to NWT residents in areas such as patient care, efficiency, quality and utilization of services against the performance of other major health facilities across the country. This will help identify areas of strength and areas of improvement regarding the services the hospital provides to the citizens of the North.

Mr. Speaker, all teams and employees who have been chosen to receive this award were nominated because they demonstrated excellence, innovation and dedication to their work. They have provided a valuable contribution and it is my great pleasure to honour them. Please join me in congratulating them on their achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

**Minister's Statement 44-15(3): NWT Teachers' Association Celebrates 50 Years**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association as they celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in service to teachers in the Northwest Territories. During their tenure they have provided strong and effective representation for their membership, and through their work, services to the students of the Northwest Territories.

The association was first formed in Fort Smith during a teachers' conference in 1953. At the time, there were 63 teachers in the Territories. The association was responsible for providing services to teachers spread out across a huge territory, over 1.5 million square kilometres since it included the area that is now the Nunavut territory.

Today, the NWTTA represents almost 770 teachers across the Northwest Territories in 49 schools in 31 communities.

In the North, we have been blessed with some of the most dedicated teachers the profession has to offer. Each of these individuals have been represented in a highly ethical and professional manner by their association, and it is an effective voice for the profession.

The NWTTA has been an effective voice in contract negotiations for their membership. While these negotiations have had some challenges, we know that the NWTTA representatives were always bargaining for the best possible outcomes for their members.

As well as highlighting the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NWTTA, I would like to acknowledge the accomplishments of an individual who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his

membership, Mr. David Murphy. Mr. Murphy was first elected president of the NWTTA in 2000 and then acclaimed by his membership for this present term, which ends this month. His work has been significant for his membership, ensuring that the association placed a strong focus on professional growth and in strengthening the education system as a whole.

I would like to close by thanking the NWTTA for its 50 years of service. We look forward to working together in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

**Minister's Statement 45-15(3): National Transportation Week - 2004**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise in the House today to inform Members that June 3-12, 2004, is National Transportation Week in Canada. The first week of June is designated annually as a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions that one million Canadians make to a transportation system that is recognized as one of the best and most competitive in the world.

The theme for this year's observance is "Transportation Innovation and Accessibility." It is a fitting focus for an industry where innovation has always been its hallmark. Canada has been at the forefront with advances in fuel efficiencies, transportation methods and safer, more environmentally-friendly transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in a geographically isolated region such as the Northwest Territories, where distances are great and the environment harsh, innovation is an essential qualification for survival, let alone prosperity. Northern transportation businesses and governments must be innovative in their practices and approaches to transportation issues and challenges in order to build a strong economy, stimulate economic development and improve the quality of life for all residents of the territory.

I am proud to say that northern workers and transportation businesses have earned a reputation that extends beyond our borders for development and applying innovative technology in many aspects of transportation operations. Over many years, a pool of expertise has developed within the territory that brings its collective knowledge and experience to bear on activities and projects of great importance to this government and to our residents.

The residents of the NWT, and thousands of visitors to our territory every year, benefit from the bold spirit, dedication and commitment to progress and excellence for which northern transportation companies and workers are known. Mr. Speaker, I know Members of this House also join with me in extending thanks to the employees of the Department of Transportation. They play a valuable role in providing a safe, reliable and efficient transportation system in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I invite and encourage Members of this assembly and the public to use this special week as an opportunity to learn more about transportation and its important role in our every day lives and to pay tribute to

the men and women whose collective efforts make this vital sector such an important agent for growth and prosperity.

As the Northwest Territories continues to move forward economically and socially, it will be in no small measure because of the strength and vitality of a transportation industry that connects our communities and our people with each other and with the markets and communities in the rest of Canada and throughout the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

**Minister's Statement 46-15(3): Public Safety Partnerships**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Public safety is a concern of many residents in the Northwest Territories. This government is addressing this concern through a partnership of governments, police and residents. Today I will highlight some of the innovative partnerships that are working to make our communities safer.

The Department of Justice is working with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to improve public safety by enhancing policing services. Working together to identify and meet the RCMP's resource demands has resulted in this government including 12 new officer positions in the 2004-2005 budget.

Six of these officers form a relief unit to ensure policing levels are maintained in smaller communities, and patrols into communities without resident RCMP can be increased. The remaining six positions will be assigned by the RCMP to help meet service demands in Inuvik, Rae, Yellowknife and Hay River. Eleven of these positions have already been filled.

In the city of Yellowknife, a partnership between the government, RCMP and the community is making our streets safer. The Department of Justice funds a dedicated RCMP position to support initiatives like the Community Wellness Committee.

Through this committee, residents are playing an active role in making the community safer. In addition to the citizens on patrol program, which brings extra eyes onto city streets, the RCMP has increased foot patrols in the downtown core. These daily patrols are conducted after school hours and during the evening.

Enhancing policing services is not the only area where innovative partnerships are making our communities safer. In the area of corrections services, community partnerships are helping supervise and reintegrate offenders back into communities.

A new partnership between the Fort McPherson Wellness Committee and the Department of Justice resulted in nine adult offenders successfully completing the first transition program at Ti'oondih lodge this spring. The program included traditional and cultural healing to assist offenders in the transition from the correctional facility back to their home.

As a result of the establishing partnerships for reintegration planning and support workshop held earlier

this year, the government has committed to increasing the involvement of community members in developing case management and reintegration plans for young offenders. By involving the community, young offenders will have more support to help them avoid re-offending, making our communities safer.

One of the most successful partnerships has been between the RCMP, Justice Canada, the Department of Justice and communities, to develop alternatives to the justice system through community-based initiatives. The community justice program requires the involvement and support of all partners.

The RCMP and Justice Canada recognize the role communities can play as an alternative to the formal justice system. Communities want to be involved in resolving their own problems in the communities on their own, and the Department of Justice is committed to providing them with support and guidance to do so effectively. This partnership has resulted in the number of community justice activities and diversions exceeding all current targets.

Mr. Speaker, the partnerships I have highlighted today show the progress this government has made towards making our communities safer. They also demonstrate that we all have a role to play. We must be aware of what is happening in our communities and report illegal activity to the RCMP. Our refusal to accept crime, violence or abuse of any kind is the best way to make our communities safer.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Dent. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Handley.

**Minister's Statement 47-15(3): Western Premiers' Conference**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, planning for the western Premiers' conference is in full swing and I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update of this prestigious event the Northwest Territories is hosting on July 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> in Inuvik.

Intergovernmental affairs representatives from the seven western jurisdictions are working on finalizing the agenda for the meeting amongst western Premiers. Premiers have not yet endorsed the agenda, but I can tell you that I have proposed that energy and devolution and resource revenue sharing be included. Once the agenda has been finalized and endorsed by western Premiers, it will be a public document.

In terms of the logistics, we have finalized a program for the 1.5 days and I am pleased to say that the community of Inuvik will be invited to join the seven Premiers and their delegations to an evening of northern entertainment, showcasing our home-grown talents and sharing a glimpse of our rich cultures. It will include a demonstration of northern games and an evening of performance by Inuvialuit drummers, Gwich'in dancers and a number of well-known musical performers.

Mindful of the costs associated with hosting an event of this magnitude, we have made every effort to keep the costs down and raise corporate sponsorship wherever possible. I am very pleased to announce that to date, we

have secured approximately \$70,000 in corporate sponsorship. In addition to substantial cash contributions, we have also received generous in-kind contributions from northern businesses and aboriginal governments across the NWT. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who have contributed so generously. The Department of Executive will continue its efforts to raise additional corporate sponsors to help offset the costs. I would also like to thank regional staff for their assistance and willingness to volunteer their time during the event.

Aside from the honour of welcoming our friends from the west and north to our beautiful home, the benefits of hosting the western Premiers are many. Being host provides an opportunity to showcase the NWT, build our national profile and promote our economic opportunities and tourism potential. Hosting the event in the Beaufort-Delta also means a significant financial injection to the region and enticing delegates to stay for a couple of extra days and tour the region. Over the next few days, Members will be provided detailed conference information and I encourage you to contact me if you would like further discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Support For Aboriginal Language Preservation

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. I would just like to wish my colleagues well as we recess for the summer months and do our constituency business. I wish them all safe travels.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday in the House, I questioned the Minister of Education about our government's apparent lack of support for aboriginal language professionals within the education system. Specifically I asked the Minister why the government was not offering programs or bursaries to promote the study of aboriginal languages. I made the point that if the government truly wanted to support aboriginal languages, then they would design the program to encourage or support people who wished to enter the field. Yesterday in a press release, the Minister announced a bursary program for aboriginal students studying law. In that release, he states that this program is an important way of supporting the development of a culturally representative legal community in the NWT. He further states that by providing support and employment to indigenous aboriginal students studying law, these students will make a long-term contribution to the North.

The Minister even goes further in the support of the legal studies program by offering a mentor program to students and also by guaranteeing them summer employment while they are at school. For the record, I would like to state that I fully support the Minister on this new initiative. I believe it will do just what it is designed to do: it will encourage students to study law. How could it do anything else?

I also believe the same kind of support for aboriginal language professionals will promote that sector of education too, and that is precisely the point I made to the Minister earlier in the week. Actions speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker. With the implementation of this new initiative, the Minister has spoken very loudly indeed, despite his assurances to the contrary. With his announcement, the Minister has revealed his priorities for education and clearly the study of aboriginal languages is not one of them.

Mr. Speaker, this is important enough for me to bring up because what happens today is when an aboriginal language instructor is...Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, this is important enough for me to bring up because what happens is that when an aboriginal language instructor is unable to make it to work, the class is generally cancelled for lack of qualified substitutes. I will bring this up in questions to the Minister responsible at the appropriate time. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 3, Members' statements. The Honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### Member's Statement On Aboriginal Youth And Partners Society In Alberta

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to talk about the Aboriginal Youth and Partners Society in Edmonton and about the uncertainty of outpatient clients in the Northwest Territories who are living in that facility. Two of the clients in that facility are my constituents, so I have become involved in this matter. As it stands today, Mr. Speaker, NWT clients are being asked by this government to move to a new service provider, Edmonton Creative Services. They are concerned that the service will not be good, and they have indicated that they do not want to move.

The Department of Health and Social Services will no longer fund the Aboriginal Partners and Youth Society simply because it has not approved of residential care provided in Alberta. Clients who wish to remain have to make their own funding arrangements. This is unlikely to happen. Mr. Speaker, with them, the two clients in the Aboriginal Partners and Youth Society, who are from the Sahtu region, have contacted me to ask for my assistance. Mr. Speaker, I cannot advocate for a cause that opens them to lawsuits. This would be irresponsible for the legislature. However, Mr. Speaker, I will say that I am angry with the way this choice has been handled. The worst that the Minister has done is that he did not have the decency to speak to the families of the clients in person; he did it by phone. Even if the department works with the Aboriginal Partners and Youth Society to assist this client to get a ticket, will it be sometime before this happens. No matter what, there will be disruptions from clients who need stability. I cannot help but feel the frustration I have. Once again aboriginal people from the North find themselves thousands of miles away from their



home, their families and their culture at the mercy of the bureaucratic system, to which they and their families have virtually no involvement and certainty in the discussions of making this decision.

Mr. Speaker, I feel very strongly that residents of the Sahtu region should not be sent a thousand miles from their home to seek the care they need. One million dollars a year to house nine individuals, Mr. Speaker, \$1 million. For \$1 million one would think that we could do something to meet the needs closer to home. Mr. Speaker, this is the last day that this assembly is together. This is my last chance to speak about the issue. My sympathy goes out to the clients and their families that have to deal with the frustration and the unfortunate situation. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue with my statement.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honourable colleagues. Mr. Speaker, these clients are far away from home, Mr. Speaker, and they have certainly looked to us for some guidance and direction as it costs a lot of money for families to go down to Edmonton. Mr. Speaker, I don't see why the facilities that are operating in the Northwest Territories are running empty, and this government is paying millions of dollars to keep them operational. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 3, Members' statements. The Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### **Member's Statement On Establishment Of A Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, during Committee of the Whole, we were discussing the developments of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline office. The process setting up this office is \$850,000, and it is contained within Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1. I would be the first one to say that this office is much needed and overdue. I do realize the importance of this office for most of my colleagues and for the ridings they represent. However, Mr. Speaker, I have some degree of difficulty in understanding why it is that this cash-strapped government, by my count, that has today over 20 persons dedicated to this initiative government-wide, comes back to this House looking for \$850,000.

This project is a multi-billion dollar project that will impact the lives and future of many of our residents and our territory. Where is the leadership from this government? Why are we scrambling at what seems like the eleventh hour when we have had prior knowledge of this for years? I would have preferred if the government went out and collected the positions and funds attached to these positions and coupled these positions with the existing Mackenzie Valley development section to form this new readiness office.

As a government, we must ensure that there is coordination. Today, Mr. Speaker, I do not see the

coordination. I just see the growth of our public service, and this causes me to be very concerned. I am of the mind that, given the size of our workforce, especially in the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, and our billion dollar budget, the government should be able to coordinate and come up with the \$850,000 and the PYs for this new office initiative. It just seems to me that it is so easy for the government to come back two months after a budget is passed to try to get \$850,000 via supplementary appropriation. Why was there not any planning for this office? We knew it was coming. I will have questions for the Minister responsible at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Northern Programs For Persons With Developmental Disabilities**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have listened with interest to the comments made in this House and in the media over the past week with respect to northern clients with disabilities who are being cared for in Alberta. I realize that there may be occasions when northern residents cannot receive very specialized services that they may require in the North, given our smaller population and more limited services.

The one group home being referred to has had difficulty with their licensing, insurance, accreditation, and they have at least nine NWT clients residing there. Mr. Speaker, I realize that this may create a position of liability for our government, and I am not particularly interested in speaking so much to that issue as I am to the fact of why this many northerners are being cared for in Alberta in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I personally had the opportunity to tour some of the facilities in Alberta. I realize that some of them are extremely specialized, and we are not able to duplicate those services here in the North. I am also aware of the fees we are paying for some of these services in the South. I find it hard to accept that more programs and services for northerners with disabilities cannot be provided in the North by northerners. I think of the facilities we currently have on the Hay River Reserve, in Fort Simpson and in Yellowknife, just to name some locations. I am quite certain that not all of these facilities are operating at full capacity. These facilities are staffed by northerners. They are closer to the clients' families, and they are accessible to many cultural, recreational, medical and professional services.

Mr. Speaker, it does not seem like there should be any magic associated with figuring out a way to stop this exodus of our clients to Alberta and the jobs that are also associated with caring for these folks. I am not sure what all of the obstacles are to repatriating these clients to the North, but I will have some questions about this matter for the Minister of Health and Social Services today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Members' statements. The Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

#### **Member's Statement On Allowable Income Support Expenses**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to draw your attention to income support programs and the list of allowable expenses under the act. Mr. Speaker, a telephone is not a necessity under the act. If you ask the department why this is, they will tell you they allocate a certain amount of money to each person on social assistance and leave it up to them as to decide how they wish to spend the money.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you the way I see it. Let us imagine a mother with two young children. How much money would this mother receive each month to house, feed, and clothe herself and her children? Mr. Speaker, we could presumably have rent for \$750, utilities for \$300, food for \$500, earned income of \$400; employment income of \$600. They would have to have \$200 of that \$600 clawed back. This month, the parent can expect to receive \$1,350, and after paying the bills, this might leave that parent with \$400. Mr. Speaker, that is about \$100 per week. Mr. Speaker, let us think about other expenses this parent would have to pay out of that \$100 a week. They have laundry, probably a few loads a week knowing kids. They have field trips and sports. Sports for the children requires equipment. You know the price of those types of expenses. I could go on, but I am sure I have made my point.

The extra \$50 phone bill expense would be a burden to this parent. Mr. Speaker, I have to bring to your attention our new Tele-Care NWT service won't be much use to this parent without a telephone to call this service. Ironically, Mr. Speaker, I might add, neither can they afford to take a taxi to the hospital. This phone service is supposed to prevent this because transportation costs are not included under allowable expenses.

Mr. Speaker, in this day and age, a telephone is a necessary expense. I would encourage the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to consider these numbers and re-evaluate the position on this important expense. Later this afternoon, I will be having questions for the Minister responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

#### **Member's Statement On National Diamond Round Table Discussions**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, the Northwest Territories, through the Minister of RWED, played host to the national diamond strategy, a round table discussion, Mr. Speaker, that was co-chaired by a Minister from Quebec. The discussion was to see what kind of policy and developmental strategy could be undertaken to advance the diamond industry on a national scale. I am very supportive of the moves taken by this government to show leadership in that area. The NWT, of course, is the third biggest producer now. We are also leading the country in establishing secondary industries

with sorting, cutting and polishing. That's an area of concern for me this morning, Mr. Speaker.

Unfortunately, it comes from comments made a few weeks ago by the mining industry itself. The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the Canadian Institute of Mining and the NWT and Nunavut Chambers of Commerce issued some of their comments related to a national diamond mining strategy and it was something I was disappointed to see. They criticized this government for its input into supporting the development of secondary diamond industries. In fact, I think they weren't very well informed. They call the support we are undertaking a subsidy of this issue.

In one of their other recommendations, Mr. Speaker, they suggested the expense that they incur voluntarily through things like social support agreements and impact benefit agreements should be allowed as tax breaks. I really found this a contrast. On one hand they say we are subsidizing and trying to establish a secondary diamond cutting industry, but they are saying that they deserve a break from the taxpayer for these other kinds of expenses.

I just wanted to draw the attention of the assembly to these contrasts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent to complete my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to complete his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have spent most of my life so far in the Northwest Territories. Mining is very much a part of my life and my family. I like to think I am a friend of the mining industry, but when these kinds of statements come out that are critical of the attempts that our government is making to establish a new industry here in Canada and show some leadership, I am disappointed. I just wanted to put that on the record that I think the mining industry still has some tuning up to do on its own front to consider its role in the long-term development of not only the diamond industry in the Northwest Territories, but in Canada as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Recognition Of Graduating Students In Nunakput**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, let me start off congratulating you on your appointment as Speaker and to the honourable David Krutko as a Member of Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, June is the month when students are graduating. There are a number of students from my riding who will be graduating from Grade 12 this month. I would like to recognize the following students from Mangilaluk School in Tuktoyaktuk: Mr. Wayne Chicksi and Dolly Wolki with three more to be confirmed later this month after exams.

From Helen Kalvik School in Holman: Gary Okheena, Heather Okheena, Helen Ekootak, Anita Olikoak, Donna Akhiatak and Victoria Akhuatak.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in wishing these graduates success in their future endeavours.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Gerald Noksana, who was a Page during the session. Mr. Noksana also participated in the Youth Parliament last month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to wish all colleagues a safe journey home after the session.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

#### **Member's Statement On Spring Activities In The Delta Region**

**MR. ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the course of our time, we spend a huge amount of time trying to deal with the major social problems and the costs associated with those problems and very seldom finding corrective methods to deal with them.

There is one aspect of our lifestyle in the Northwest Territories that is very important to indigenous northerners, and those who understand the value of a renewable resource lifestyle would understand my statement today.

Mr. Speaker, in the history of the Mackenzie Delta, we have over 25,000 lakes, approximately 125,000 kilometres of waterways, and I have been told by a hydrologist that about one million gallons of water flows on a per-second basis out from the Mackenzie Delta, which is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest delta in the world, into the Beaufort Sea area.

The point I am trying to make today, Mr. Speaker, is we are concluding the annual muskrat hunting season. People are beginning to look at moving into town to celebrate their harvest levels. They go to RWED to get their fur cheques and advances. They celebrate for a few weeks and prepare to go into the oil camps in early July and to their fish camps to make dry fish. We get to participate in some tourism activities that occur along the Mackenzie Delta waterways, along the Dempster Highway. I am going to say before we travel back home that I would like to congratulate all those Members who participate in this annual muskrat spring hunting season. I know I have done that many times in our history and I see the Member for Mackenzie Delta smiling because we quite often cross paths in many waterways in the Mackenzie Delta.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure there are many, many stories told of one another as they climb different riverbanks and watch the ice floes go by. It becomes a story in itself. We would like to, at some point, in the near future, invite the Minister of RWED because I was told he has very little experience...

---Laughter

I think it would be a good opportunity for him to come out and learn the hunting and trapping across our vast lands here in the Mackenzie Delta and the Deh Cho.

Finally, I want to wish everyone back home a very joyous summer and especially have a safe boating season. We

always seem to have some tragedy on the river and in the waterways. So I encourage you to have a safe summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

#### **Member's Statement On GNWT Management Assignment Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about a program this government has been initiating to prepare government employees to advance to higher level government positions like deputy ministers, directors and managers.

Mr. Speaker, the management assignment program, which started last year, selected 25 participants to take part in this important initiative. Out of the 25 people selected for the first round of this program, Mr. Speaker, I only saw one aboriginal person on this list of eligible participants.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Shame, shame!

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** After the list was sent to various government departments, I have received many inquiries from potential and very qualified aboriginal employees who have been in the government for long periods of time, some even having trained some of the individuals on the list as to why they were not considered eligible to take part in this management program.

Mr. Speaker, although the first 25 participants in this program have yet to receive any type of extra duties or responsibilities to prepare them for the higher level of positions after one year, I have received notice that this program is once again eligible to six eligible employees in this government. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the second round of nominations to engage employees in management assignments not only includes more aboriginals, but also initiates this government to start to...(inaudible)...in this program because the program does seem to be a very low priority as the program is on its second round, but no action has been initiated or identified according to some of the participants who were selected in the first round of this management assignment program. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### **Member's Statement On Repatriation Of Clients With Developmental Disabilities**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join many of the colleagues who have spoken about the situation surrounding northern clients in Alberta facilities. Mr. Speaker, there are lots of issues and questions surrounding this issue, but I would like to speak most of all in favour in moving quickly to repatriate these clients and any other clients we have in southern institutions. Mr. Speaker, I venture to say that Yellowknife has everything that Edmonton does and we could do it better in the North.

I believe there are also facilities in the North that could do this. Mr. Speaker, more importantly, this goes to how the government spends its money. When we go through our government, a big part of our government budget is earmarked. It's marked in and there is nothing that Members on this side can do and programs like this, where we send clients to the South, are one of them. We give the dollars and we trust that the department, the government, the officials in charge of them, would do their best part to make sure that the money is spent wisely and that the best service possible is provided. The latest issue surrounding these APYS programs should make us revisit this issue, Mr. Speaker. We have the capacity in the North. We are all grown up now. Any people that we need to provide these programs can be hired with the \$1 million a year that is currently going to this program.

The Member for Hay River South mentioned Fort Simpson as one of the possible locations, and I believe there are underused facilities there that we could tap into. I would like to add one more item, Mr. Speaker, and that is a facility in Inuvik that currently houses one female young offender for the amount of \$800,000 a year.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Shame, shame!

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting that these clients be sent to an offender facility, but I understand it's a very low-risk facility, and perhaps the government should look into moving that young offender to another facility so we could repatriate 10 people to stay in the North and for us to build capacity. I believe we can do that and we have to stop just locking these programs and expect that it will all be taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I see in the gallery a constituent of mine, Mr. David Legrow. I know he listens to the goings on of this House very closely and I am happy to see him in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Welcome to the Legislature. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 194-15(3): Responding To Pipeline Development

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will go back to my statement that I made earlier with regard to the setup of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline office. I am just wondering when can we, as regular Members, get a real firm grip on our full staff complement, government-wide, that deals with pipeline readiness issues on a day-to-day basis in this government? When can we get that type of

information? The calculations that I have made is it's over 20 PYs government-wide. So I am asking the Minister when he might be able to make that information available to us. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Bell.

##### Return To Question 194-15(3): Responding To Pipeline Development

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do have positions across the government that are involved in oil and gas. We know that ECE and the college are engaged in training activities, safety, welding and driver training. I think some 400-plus people went through training programs with ECE and the college last year to be ready for oil and gas. MACA does have employees engaged in capacity building, helping communities build capacity to be ready for oil and gas development. Other types of development are obviously RWED, with its petroleum advisors and business programs has a number of people involved in helping us be industry-development ready. Many of these activities have been ongoing. Obviously oil and gas activity in Norman Wells, Liard, currently in the Cameron Hills is all pre-pipeline.

Now we know we are getting ready for what will amount to a mega-project and that is the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. It's important for us to be ready for this. That's why we are staffing up the Mackenzie Valley pipeline office. I have taken this proposal to the joint committee, Cabinet/regular Member committee involved in the pipeline. We've had our first meeting and received endorsement for the proposal. I took that back to Cabinet. Obviously we are prepared to come to all of the ordinary Members and have discussion about this going forward.

The point is this committee has been established to better understand how this government is going to cope with this pipeline development; but we aren't talking about just RWED, we are talking across departments. I know the concerns yesterday about mitigating potential social impacts. This committee will provide strategic advice in that regard and I look forward to very productive discussions. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

##### Supplementary To Question 194-15(3): Responding To Pipeline Development

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for the response. Why are we not, as a government, coordinating some of these positions the Minister speaks of into this vitally important office? Why aren't we doing that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Good question!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Bell.

##### Further Return To Question 194-15(3): Responding To Pipeline Development

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously with the passage of this supp, we will have the first start of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline office and I am expecting a lot of strategic advice from the joint committee in this regard as to how this office can be most effective

and what kinds of activities it should carry out. Some of these activities are not entirely pipeline related. They have implications for the pipeline and will be involved. For instance, the Department of Finance is looking for an extra position to help us get a handle on statistics and do some baseline studies as they relate to development. We aren't just talking about the pipeline. We are talking about oil and gas development and mining, so it probably wouldn't make sense to pull a position like that into the Mackenzie Valley office. That is not to say that they will not be working closely and collaborating very closely with this office. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 194-15(3): Responding To Pipeline Development**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I see it, there will still be departments off doing their own thing, unbeknownst to the Mackenzie Valley pipeline office. How is this coordination? Why can't someone take charge of this vitally important initiative and direct PYs and resources to it in no uncertain terms? Why isn't this happening and why can't it happen this way as opposed to coming back to this House looking for \$850,000? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 194-15(3): Responding To Pipeline Development**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This office will coordinate the activities of this government. The Member is suggesting that that is lacking. I would concur. I would agree that that is lacking and we don't have the capacity currently to coordinate and manage all the activities related to oil and gas and pipeline development. We are hoping that this office can do that. It's going to need direction from the joint committee and need direction from Cabinet and ordinary Members. We can't simply set up this office and hope that it will find its way through the myriad of challenges that will be this pipeline development. The Member has a number of concerns and suggested yesterday that we find the money to fund an office like this from within. I would say, Mr. Speaker, given we are looking to find \$20 million in lower priority items in savings as a government this year, then de facto that is what we're doing. We are talking about funding a higher priority item. I would suggest that this is of the highest priority, and we will find money for this office, in this department and in others, in looking at lower priority items. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Your final supplementary. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Question 195-15(3): Caring For Persons With Developmental Disabilities**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger. The situation that has arisen with the group home in Edmonton around some of the problems that they were having, has brought to light and brought to the forefront again the subject of northerners being cared for in Alberta

institutions, and our government's seemingly lack of ability to repatriate these northerners. So I would like to ask the Minister how many northerners with disabilities are currently being cared for outside of the Northwest Territories, I'm sure mostly in Alberta? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 195-15(3): Caring For Persons With Developmental Disabilities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member raises a good point, the issue of repatriation is one that is well on our agenda, and as we speak in relation to the case that has brought all this discussion to light. We are looking at the possibilities. As I indicated in this House over the last week, we believe there's an opportunity in the short term to repatriate these clients into existing services, and then we are going to actively look at a longer-range plan. So I concur with the issues and concerns raised in the House by the Members this morning as we talk about this issue, that we are mature enough now, I think, in many cases to look at that kind of repatriation, that we are capable of providing the services. I would suggest we're going to do the review that's necessary and we will be building that, as well, into our business plan. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 195-15(3): Caring For Persons With Developmental Disabilities**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now are there any facilities in the Northwest Territories similar to what is being offered right now where these clients are accommodated in Alberta? Are there facilities currently open with vacancies in the North at this time? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 195-15(3): Caring For Persons With Developmental Disabilities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a variety of resources, as the Member knows and has indicated, in her community. In Yellowknife there are a number of supported living situations, as well. There's capacity in Fort Smith, there's some capacity in Inuvik. It depends on the particular needs of the client involved, and it has to be done on a client-by-client basis, which is what we're doing. At this point we've had very senior staff in Edmonton for the last two to three weeks, working through this APYS situation. One of the issues that has come to light, as I indicated, is the potential in the short term to do some repatriation. As well, I will work with the department on the longer-term plan. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 195-15(3): Caring For Persons With Developmental Disabilities**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I had asked the Minister in a previous question how many northerners -- I don't need to know exactly -- I don't believe he answered that question. Does he know how many northerners are in southern placements right now currently funded by his department? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 195-15(3): Caring For Persons With Developmental Disabilities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are over one dozen. Thank you.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Nice try.

**Supplementary To Question 195-15(3): Caring For Persons With Developmental Disabilities**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** That's an interesting answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

Perhaps with a little bit less vagueness the Minister could tell me approximately what kind of dollar value is associated right now with placements outside of the Northwest Territories of persons with disabilities. What kind of dollars are being expended by this government for those clients, those over one dozen? Thank you.

---Laughter

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

**Further Return To Question 195-15(3): Caring For Persons With Developmental Disabilities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, without being able to find that particular item in my briefing book, the figure that I would suggest is it's a few million. Thank you.

---Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Question 196-15(3): Support For Aboriginal Language Development And Training**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education. Yesterday the Minister announced a new program to encourage aboriginal students to study law. If the Minister understands that direct support through bursaries and other means will promote the study of law and encourage long-term commitment to the North on the part of law students, does he not think the same kind of support specifically dedicated to the study of

aboriginal languages for aboriginal language professionals will accomplish similar ends?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent

**Return To Question 196-15(3): Support For Aboriginal Language Development And Training**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the Member knows that I feel it's very important that we have aboriginal language instructors in our schools and that we support the development of them. In fact, the college has an aboriginal language and culture instructor program as part of its offerings. This government spends over \$1.6 million a year on the teacher education program. The reason we do it in the Northwest Territories rather than seeing all our teachers go down south, is we want to encourage people who have language skills to learn in the North so that they can be in the schools. Part of the college program is a reinforcement of the aboriginal language and culture aspect of education. So, yes, this government does recognize how important that is, and we put an awful lot more money into training teachers than we do into training lawyers. So I would say that we've demonstrated that commitment, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 196-15(3): Support For Aboriginal Language Development And Training**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, I did have an opportunity to look at our collective agreement with respect to further training by our teachers, and what's in there is that teachers do get application for education leave but they have to do it with reduced pay, at 60 percent of their salary level. I don't believe that that does enough to encourage our professionals to continue furthering their skills in language development. I would just like to ask the Minister how can we further encourage our aboriginal language professionals to look at further training? Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 196-15(3): Support For Aboriginal Language Development And Training**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I would argue that that amount has been negotiated at the bargaining table by the NWTTA and, therefore, isn't something that we can arbitrarily change. I think that the amount of funding that is provided for education leave for teachers is considered quite attractive in comparison to what's available in other jurisdictions, so I think we've done quite well there.

The other thing that's important to remember is that the aboriginal language and culture instructor program by the college is offered in conjunction with the divisional education councils in the region. So for instance, the Dehcho Divisional Education Council has, in conjunction with the college, offered within the Deh Cho this program to help teachers get that training on a part-time basis. So they can do it without having to lose any employment

income, they can do it while they are still working full time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 196-15(3): Support For Aboriginal Language Development And Training**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, I was just wondering if the Minister will be able to give some level of support for aboriginal language professionals through a dedicated program of bursaries, similar to what has been offered for aboriginal law students. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 196-15(3): Support For Aboriginal Language Development And Training**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has a wide range of bursaries available for students, and students in the TEP program who are studying aboriginal languages would qualify for those bursaries, as well. There are health bursaries, there are bursaries for law students, there are bursaries and grants that are based usually on academic performance. So there are opportunities for students already to take advantage of grants and bursaries. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Your final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 196-15(3): Support For Aboriginal Language Development And Training**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. In our newly released strategic plan, the government says it will implement school programs to support culture and language. I'm just wondering how the Minister of Education plans to accomplish this goal. Specifically, who will teach these programs? Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 196-15(3): Support For Aboriginal Language Development And Training**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important ways we're going to do it, as I announced earlier this session, is we're going to be offering the full four-year bachelor of education program in the Northwest Territories. We're going to make sure that northerners have an opportunity to complete their training right through to the bachelor's baccalaureate level, and make sure that we have more qualified northerners available to teach in the classrooms. That is the most important way we're going to support this at first.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Hear! Hear!

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** There are a number of other things that we do. We support aboriginal language and culture through the development of the curriculum Dene Kede, and making sure that teachers in the classroom have access to resources so that they can better offer the program. But another important way that we're going to make sure that language is supported is through programs like the language nest. We ensure that kids come to school knowing that they are able to speak their

language and, with some assistance, making sure the communities know that really much of the language learning has to be happening at home. You can have the best qualified teacher in the world, but if people aren't speaking their language at home it's not going to make a significant difference. So it's important that we get leaders, communities and the public to understand that the most important thing we can do is to encourage all parents to use their language when they're speaking to their young children.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 197-15(3): Repatriation Of Disabled Clients In Southern Institutions**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pursue a further question on the Member's statement that I made earlier today. As I stated, Members here often express our frustration of the fact that when we are presented with a budget so much of it is locked in. One of the things that are locked in is the care for these clients in southern facilities for various causes. It could be for a disability or for some other cause, and they're just locked in. We don't revisit it, we just pay whoever it is that we're paying, and for some of it a lot of money. This facility that we're talking about in Edmonton, we have 10 people in this facility and we're paying more than \$1 million. I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that is a critical number of clients as well as a critical mass of dollars that would allow us to do our own thing in the North. Often the case is made that we have two clients here and two clients there and it's not enough for us to have to hire all of the resource people that are needed, but I don't think that argument can be made here. So I would like to know from the Minister how much thought he has given, or his department has given, to see how we could repatriate these clients to the North so that money can be spent here and the services can be given in the North by northerners. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 197-15(3): Repatriation Of Disabled Clients In Southern Institutions**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of repatriation and providing, as a government, services to the people we serve within the territory is not a new concept. If we look back to 1967 when the government came north and the services that were there then and the services that are here now clearly indicate that we have been evolving over the years and decades and that there are a tremendous amount of services we provide in house, be it in education where we now can do college or some university accreditation, or in health and social services where we have group homes, we have childcare facilities, we have facilities for seniors and the tertiary level care services we provide at Stanton. So it's not correct to say that repatriation is just an issue that just popped up today. In this particular case there's an issue with a group home in Alberta and we're dealing with that issue. Are we looking at repatriation? Yes, we are. Are we going to put it into our longer-term plans? It's there; we're trying to do as the Member, my colleague from RWED, indicated. We are currently under a number of fiscal restraints trying to look

at realizing some savings, and within that context we are trying to operate and we are going to look at this particular issue. I've indicated in this House to the Member for Hay River South that we are going to look at some immediate possibilities, as well as the longer term. So, yes, it's on our radar and, yes, we're acting on it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 197-15(3): Repatriation Of Disabled Clients In Southern Institutions**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sense a little bit of contradiction in the answer that he gave, Mr. Speaker, as he is saying that this not a new issue, but he is also saying that he's going to look at the long-term plan, and I'm telling the Minister that's not good enough. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister has found the notes, and he's budgeting \$3.1 million for 25 adults next year, and \$4.1 million for 35 adults the year after. I'm telling you that is enough money for us to have our own facility in place whether we are using existing buildings, and the Member for Hay River South mentioned the adult group home in Hay River is totally underused. There are only three people who are staying there. I understand there is a facility in Simpson. I understand from the Member for Sahtu that there is a seniors' home sitting empty in Deline, and I have already given an example of a brand-new facility in Inuvik that is housing one person. So I'm not satisfied with a long-term plan. I want to know if the Minister has looked into this, and if he hasn't, would he do it today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 197-15(3): Repatriation Of Disabled Clients In Southern Institutions**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no contradiction, and I'll do my best to satisfy the Member, as difficult as that sometimes may be. The reality is, as I've indicated, Mr. Speaker -- and this is not just a case of putting a roof over somebody's head -- we're talking about clients, many of them with complex, multiple needs that are very specialized. So I think it's an overgeneralization to say let's just round them all up and stick them into every available space we may have up here willy-nilly, regardless of what their needs may be. So, yes, we're looking at this and we're going to do it in a careful, measured way. We're looking at some short-term possibilities; as well, we're going to look at the long term. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 197-15(3): Repatriation Of Disabled Clients In Southern Institutions**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Surely that's not what I'm suggesting, for the Minister to do anything willy-nilly. I don't mind breaking out into a song, "I Can't Get No Satisfaction," ...

---Laughter

---Applause

...as long as I'm doing that on behalf of my constituents and people of the North. Mr. Speaker, he has not answered the question about whether or not, first of all, he knows about these four facilities. Have any of the hundreds of staff that he has under his supervision looked at these buildings? Has that come onto his radar screen? Could the Minister commit to look at these buildings and see if they are at all usable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 197-15(3): Repatriation Of Disabled Clients In Southern Institutions**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the level of the Member's satisfaction is the level of detail I don't think I really need as the Minister. However, I will attempt to respond once again. These are very specialized placements, they're not necessarily institutions, they're supported living, there are multiple needs, some of them very complex that require specialized care. Are we looking at this? Yes, we are.

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

**Supplementary To Question 197-15(3): Repatriation Of Disabled Clients In Southern Institutions**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not asking any of the Ministers to satisfy me...

---Laughter

...I'm asking the Ministers to do their jobs and use the money wisely. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I'm not looking for all these 25 or 35 adults to be put together. I understand that they all have different needs. But we know for a fact that it was enough, it was satisfactory to put 10 people together in a facility in Edmonton. If it's good enough for them, it's good enough for us. Would the Minister consider putting them together into any of these facilities we have? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 197-15(3): Repatriation Of Disabled Clients In Southern Institutions**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is not a facility with one huge roof like Wal-Mart. We're talking about individual living accommodations and supports for people with complex needs. I have indicated to the Members involved that I would be happy to look towards arranging a tour down to Capital Health in Edmonton to look at all our health services...

---Applause

...and all our social services that we contract with them. We did it in the last assembly and it was a very informative tour for myself and the Members who went along, and I would be willing to look at arranging that again. We are looking at the individual needs, the individual clients. The intent is to put them into as home-like supportive living as possible, as opposed to any kind of major institution where they are just housed with dozens of other people. That's not the intent here. We are trying to respond to individual clients, many of whom are very complex. Thank you.



**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Question 198-15(3): Eligible Income Support Expenses**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in my Member's statement I spoke about the need for the telephone to be an allowable expense under the act. I spoke about the fact that many government services, such as the Department of Health and Social Services' new Tele-Care line, are not accessible to people without a phone. It's hard for people to get a job if a potential employer can't get hold of them in a timely fashion. My question for the Minister is whether his department is considering, under the income support program, including basic telephone as an allowable expense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

**Return To Question 198-15(3): Eligible Income Support Expenses**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no intent within the department to review the program right now to include the cost of telephone as one of the basic expenses. The expectation is that the amount that's in the program is one that allows people to make choices as to what they will spend their money on. I recognize that there are some who feel the program is not adequate, but I have started the process of discussing with the standing committee the adequacy of the program and we have had some initial discussions and are planning to carry that on through the month of June. I am prepared to work with the Standing Committee on Social Programs to discuss the program, make sure that everyone is aware of how it functions, and then see if we can agree on whether there should be any changes made. But I am not going to launch off and make any commitments to any changes at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 198-15(3): Eligible Income Support Expenses**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his answer. Could the Minister reply with some further clarity as to whether he would be willing to consider a telephone expense as an allowable expense under the income support program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 198-15(3): Eligible Income Support Expenses**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I have already begun the process of reviewing the program with the standing committee and listen to the committee and work with them as we work through this. Stipulated expenses like rent, for instance, we pay the actual cost. The overall allowance that comes out, we expect people will make choices as to what they spend

the money on. Therefore, at this point, it's up to clients whether they believe the telephone is an essential expense. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 198-15(3): Eligible Income Support Expenses**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister provide any comment in relation to timeline for issues to be discussed like making the telephone an allowable expense under income support, and will he be allowing public input on that type of expense? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 198-15(3): Eligible Income Support Expenses**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I am not planning any public process. There have been enough reviews of the income support program over the course of the last nine years and I don't think we need to do that again. I hear from advocates quite regularly. I have committed that I will work with the standing committee. The Member is on that committee, so he knows we have had an initial briefing and there is another briefing planned for later this month, at which we will see if we can move things along. As is the process here, if any changes are to be made to a program which will impact it fiscally, that has to be worked through the business planning process and the business plans will be presented to committees in September. That is the timetable for any changes to be seen by Members of this House for proposal. That would mean they would be implemented then in the course of the next budget, which is April 1, 2005. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Your final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 198-15(3): Eligible Income Support Expenses**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister could comment specifically what is holding up the telephone being considered an allowable expense? Basic telephone service is no longer a luxury of the modern day. I would quantify it as just as important as rent and food. So can the Minister explain that, please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 198-15(3): Eligible Income Support Expenses**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess there is a question as to which is more important. The program pays right now the full cost of rent. So there is an agreement that is not calculated as part of the amount that you have to justify. The program does pay the full cost, but most other things are considered the client's choice. The expenses are added up as to what a person has and brings to the table, and then an amount is provided as a top up. So it's entirely up to people right now to decide whether they choose to spend the money on a phone. It's essential to point out that there have been arguments that our program is not efficient, we have way

above anybody else in terms of benefits. There is nobody else in Canada that comes close to what we provide in benefits in income support. So it's a very good program. Does it need to have attention paid to it? It probably does. That's why I am committed to reviewing it with the standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**Question 199-15(3): Supporting Traditional Harvesting Lifestyle**

**MR. ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement, I made reference to seasonal and healthy lifestyles enjoyed by the people of the Mackenzie Delta and elsewhere across the Territories. I want to ask the Minister of RWED if he would assess the priority of his department, so that we can have a designated renewable resource economist assigned to the Inuvik region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 199-15(3): Supporting Traditional Harvesting Lifestyle**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is something that the Member and I and my department have been in some discussion about, not the specific position of a renewable resource economist, but more to the point of what we need to look at with renewable resources, work with communities to better understand where there are economic opportunities that are acceptable to the communities and economic opportunities that individual entrepreneurs would like to pursue. We do have business development people in the regions who can be actively engaged in this regard. It's probably more appropriate than renewable resource officers, who have had a slightly different mandate, as the Member knows. Certainly it has merit. This discussion is important as we look to understand and identify opportunities that will allow us to take full advantage, especially of traditional lifestyles. Certainly this is a message that I have sent to the department and we are in discussion about how to pursue this course of action. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Allen.

**Supplementary To Question 199-15(3): Supporting Traditional Harvesting Lifestyle**

**MR. ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the context of the Minister's reply, I want to commend the department for their continued support of the fur harvesters' program, fur pricing program. I think it's important as well to make the Minister aware that even though there is some renewed interest in how they are going to address the renewable resource sector, I still think it's important that they consider the fact that we need to have the same level of investment in the renewable resource sector to mitigate some of the socioeconomic impacts that the pipeline proposal would bring, so we can continue to enhance that level of lifestyle. I certainly hope the Minister would respond to the question of whether his department would

support this subsistence-based lifestyle that is enjoyed by most communities and will be directly impacted by the pipeline. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 199-15(3): Supporting Traditional Harvesting Lifestyle**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you. I will certainly commit to continue with the programs we are currently providing in this regard. I think they are very important and very worthwhile. The member has indicated a couple and we've received a lot of response from other jurisdictions who really envy the fur pricing program and suggest that this is unprecedented support for that industry. I would also like to add that this government recognizes the need to diversify our economy and ensure that we aren't solely reliant on mining, oil and gas development. There are a lot of tourism opportunities and a lot of renewable resource opportunities. It is important for us to pay a lot of attention to these sectors because they are sustainable and they will be here, be with us and be strong going forward if, in fact, we provide that level of support. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Allen.

**Supplementary To Question 199-15(3): Supporting Traditional Harvesting Lifestyle**

**MR. ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We quite often talk amongst ourselves about the importance of supporting the renewable resource sector, but I haven't seen any dialogue to date on the level of discussions. Is the Minister continuing to dialogue with the aboriginal corporation on the Gwich'in Tribal Council to try to enhance some of their motions that were presented during their board of directors meetings to facilitate and promote the renewable resource sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 199-15(3): Supporting Traditional Harvesting Lifestyle**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we are having a lot of discussion internally in the department, but we do recognize the need to work very closely with our aboriginal government partners, with aboriginal development organizations. Obviously much of this activity will be grassroots driven. It's not something that the government is interested nor should impose on regions. This should be to the comfort level of the individual communities and regions, but we want to work with them to help them understand and identify opportunities that there may be as we analyze world markets, because there really are a lot of resources we can tap into and we don't have to be solely focussed on the ones that obviously jump to mind in terms of diamonds, gold and oil and gas. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 200-15(3): Aboriginal Youth And Partners Society**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the honourable Minister Michael Miltenberger.

In my Member's statement today, I talked about the uncertainty facing clients in the Northwest Territories who are currently living in the facility operated by the Aboriginal Partners and Youth Society. While I sympathize with the troubles of the society, I have too, as a legislator, recognized there are certain standards and criteria that have to be met by this government to continue other contractual relationships. I cannot advocate a cause that would open them up for lawsuits. This would be irresponsible as a legislator. This being said, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Health and Social Services can provide this House with information on the programs and services offered by the proposed new contractor as they relate to aboriginal people. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 200-15(3): Aboriginal Youth And Partners Society**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would be happy to provide this House, to the Chair of Social Programs, the package of information that we have as it relates to Integrated Services in Edmonton and the various components of the programs and services they offer. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 200-15(3): Aboriginal Youth And Partners Society**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the information from the Minister. In saying all this, I also want to ask the Minister and his officials what they are planning to do to inform these nine clients who are in Edmonton about the facility. Not so much the clients, but look at the families of these people rather than just having a phone call to the families. What is his department doing to talk to the families? I know it's a sensitive issue and I would appreciate a phone call from any department of this government to let me know what's happening to someone who is close to me. I think we need to make the personal touch and reach out and touch someone, as someone from the phone company says.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 200-15(3): Aboriginal Youth And Partners Society**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have had staff down in Edmonton now for almost three weeks, senior staff working through the situation and dealing with the clients on a daily basis. We've also made sure, as we have tried to keep everybody informed, that the families have been informed. Some of them are very active in this particular issue. If there is more to be done, then I would be glad to take advice from the Member to see what that would be in terms of keeping the families better involved and informed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 200-15(3): Aboriginal Youth And Partners Society**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns of the families is the new services being proposed by this government to be used by the clients who are in Edmonton is that Integrated Services may not be a good move. Some of the families indicated that the Aboriginal Partners and Youth Society has a really good program and are afraid that their clients would not receive the same type of programs by this new proposed facility. What steps will the Minister take to ensure that the new contractor meets the needs of the aboriginal clients who are being suggested to move to the new contractor? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 200-15(3): Aboriginal Youth And Partners Society**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, as a government, have taken all the steps at this point we believe are necessary. We've made arrangements with Integrated Services. We, along with Nunavut and the Alberta government, no longer place clients with APYS. The issue of the aboriginal and cultural component is one that's been addressed. Integrated Services is tied into services in Edmonton with the group Bent Arrow and the friendship centres. We are working with them to make sure that the northern content is there. Once the clients move, we can deal with issues like northern foods and that sort of thing. So we are very sensitive to the issue the Member has raised. We've made the case to ensure that is clearly addressed and we will continue to work with Integrated Services to ensure that that component of the program is strong and robust. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 200-15(3): Aboriginal Youth And Partners Society**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I heard talk of \$1 million for nine clients who are living in Edmonton. It's hard for families, Mr. Speaker, to visit their loved ones who are so far away in Edmonton. It seems to me that it's high time this government takes a hard look at some steps to repatriate some of these people or all the people back up North in the many facilities that can be used. Some Members have indicated to the House which facilities are located in the North. Can the Minister tell me, tell the House and tell families and people in the Northwest Territories, what concrete steps his department is taking with regard to repatriating our people back to the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 200-15(3): Aboriginal Youth And Partners Society**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, in relation to this particular instance, the primary, fundamental and initial concern is to make sure that once a decision is made about APYS, the transition to move

clients into adequate facilities so they have the same kind of service level and resources they had previously is done. We've done that. I have indicated to this House, in the short term we are looking at the possibilities of some short-term repatriation of services we now have in the North. As well, we are going to look at the longer term, once again based on the individual client needs, to see what could be possible in the longer term, keeping in mind that these individuals are in support of home and living environments. They are not in institutions per se over at APYS. For the other ones we have down there, we have to review all the files on an individual basis and see what's possible to do in the North, and that will be part of the business planning process that will come before committee in this House in the next number of months. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### **Question 201-15(3): Training Of Corrections Workers**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stood up in the House before, questioning the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and also the Minister of Justice, on the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. The two issues that come to mind are staff morale at the centre and safety, Mr. Speaker.

I am wondering if the Minister is aware that currently at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, there are new employees working the floor of that facility with a four-day training course under their belts. Typically, Mr. Speaker, it's a 10-day course. I wonder if this causes the Minister any concern and does he feel it compromises the safety of the staff and the inmates of that facility? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister of Justice, Mr. Dent.

#### **Return To Question 201-15(3): Training Of Corrections Workers**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence that the training and supervision is adequate at the centre. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

#### **Supplementary To Question 201-15(3): Training Of Corrections Workers**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel, and I have mentioned this before in the House, that I believe it's only a matter of time before a serious incident takes place at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. Does the Minister know that due to a lack of staff at the facility, they are currently paying out exorbitant amounts of overtime? Some employees are even working double and triple shifts. This practice certainly has to compromise the safety of the building, the staff and the inmates who are currently there, and I am wondering what the Minister will do to address this issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Dent.

#### **Further Return To Question 201-15(3): Training Of Corrections Workers**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I am confident that the facility is safe, and what we are doing, as the Member will have probably noticed, is that there have been a number of positions advertised. So we are moving to fill some of the positions that have been filled on a casual basis, and we will have more permanent staff who will be able to take the training, and hopefully that will reduce the number of overtime shifts that are required. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

#### **Supplementary To Question 201-15(3): Training Of Corrections Workers**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know a colleague of mine, Ms. Lee, had a written question to the Minister the other day. My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister is when can we expect an answer to that written question? My questions are along the same lines. How much has the department paid in overtime over the past six months as opposed to the six months previous, and what is the vacancy rate there today, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. There were probably three questions there. Mr. Dent, you can choose to answer one or all three.

#### **Further Return To Question 201-15(3): Training Of Corrections Workers**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the only one I can answer for sure is that I will endeavour to have the answer to Ms. Lee's written question within a week, and I will copy all Members on it so that they have access to it. It will contain the sort of information the Member asked for specifically, subsequent to that, which I don't have at my fingertips.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

#### **Question 202-15(3): Management Assignment Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure which Minister to direct this question to because I am not sure what department the management assignment program falls under. But since all the applications do go to the corporate human resource services office, I guess that would be under the offices of the Executive. So let me ask the Premier what the new management assignment program that the government is currently undertaking, which comprises a two-phase assessment component to find some eligible participants that are willing to complete the program. I just want to ask the Premier who is on this assessment review committee, and when do they do their reviews? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 202-15(3): Management Assignment Program**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the program is managed by the director of corporate human resources. The intake for the program is once a year. The deadline for the new intake is June 15<sup>th</sup>. So they will be shortly doing the assessments for the new people. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 202-15(3): Management Assignment Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his answer and that information. Let me just ask the Premier is it only the director of the corporate human resources that is doing the assessment on all the applicants that he receives for the program, or is there an assessment review committee in place to review the applicants? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 202-15(3): Management Assignment Program**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, there is a committee, and a fairly structured but fair process for doing assessments on any applicants or nominees who are being considered for the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 202-15(3): Management Assignment Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the program is basically designed to run for 24 to 48 months and not guaranteeing jobs at the senior level when they complete the program. I have received some information from what I would term eligible candidates for the program that in the second round of selections, many of these applicants that have submitted applications to the first round of participants in the program are basically taking the attitude now that they will not apply for the second round of program eligibility due to the fact that they, and I quote, a lot of them say "why bother because we will not even be chosen anyway," and many of these applicants are of aboriginal decent. So I just wanted to ask the Premier maybe what assurances can he give these aboriginal applicants to make them feel that they will be given an equal opportunity to participate in this management assignment program? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 202-15(3): Management Assignment Program**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, of course our first objective is to have management assignment program clients, enrollees who have the aptitude and the skill to be able to take on senior management positions, but I have had the same concern as the Member is raising that when I look at the list of who is enrolled in the program there are

not very many aboriginal people there. We need to do more to encourage aboriginal employees to apply for the program, and to give them the training and skill development that is necessary for it. So, Mr. Speaker, I have spoken with the deputy minister and the director of corporate human resources to see if there is a way of being able to improve the program so that we do have a more representative population. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Your final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 202-15(3): Management Assignment Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that the Premier also recognizes that it is an issue with him, and if it is an issue with him I think that is a big issue for this government, and I think that we should really pay more attention to the assessment process for eligible applicants. Let me just ask the Premier then just getting some feedback from some of the first round applicants that are involved in the program, when is this program going to start? I know a lot of these participants haven't received any developmental assignments, any activities or any mentoring or coaching or training of any sort to date, and we are going into the second round of eligible applicants in the program. So I want to ask the Premier when does the ball start rolling in the program and people start getting some training? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 202-15(3): Management Assignment Program**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the program is ongoing. All but five of the current people in the program have been placed or are on assignment. So the program is functioning for them. The deadline for application for new people who want to take the program or be enrolled in the program is June 15<sup>th</sup>. So if there are individuals out there that any of the Members are aware of, and who are interested in being in the program, then I would certainly be interested in their names and ensure that they have the opportunity to go through the application process. But, as I said, all but five of the current people in the program are on assignment or have been placed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Question 203-15(3): Premier's Awards For Excellence Program**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I realize that there are many folks out there awaiting our presence in the Great Hall to deal with the Premier's Awards for Excellence, and that is actually the program I want to speak to before we go out there. First of all I want to confess I did not submit any nominations for this awards program, but, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned with the Minister's statement the Premier made today when he outlined who the recipients for this were. I don't want to rain on anybody's parade here, but, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to have awards and programs like this I think then it behooves us to show a little bit of sensitivity to who we represent as a government. I don't

know who does the screening for these applications, whether it is like the program that Mr. Villeneuve just mentioned, where the Premier has the same concerns as the Member, well then I have to ask who's in charge and whose program is it then, and who is responsible for the Department of the Executive? I don't know how these nominations are screened but, Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that the four recipients, the four main recipients of the Premier's awards today all are men, none are aboriginal, three out of four live in Yellowknife, and one has only lived in the Territories for 18 months. I am sorry, but I find that an insult to the people who have served many, many years in this government. So I would like to ask the Premier, what guidelines are used in handing out these awards? If they are prestigious and if they have meaning, then surely we should be a little more sensitive. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 203-15(3): Premier's Awards For Excellence Program**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The nomination process, or the application process for people interested in nominating people for the awards is fairly open. It is well advertised to all the communities, it is advertised in all the regions, it is advertised at headquarters. People cannot make application, they have to have someone nominate them if they wish to be there, Mr. Speaker, so it is open to everyone. We receive the applications then, second, there is a committee of deputy ministers because this is a peer assessment process. A group of deputies then assess the applications and will make their recommendations based on that. There is no limit on how long an individual may have worked for the government. Some may have worked for a fairly short period of time, but have done a stellar job in their responsibilities. So, Mr. Speaker, there is no effort at this time to try and have a gender balance. It is based on applications. Basically the intention here, Mr. Speaker, is to have individuals who can be nominated by their peers, and leave it open to whoever may want to nominate, whether it is a small community, large community, male, female, and we don't put a lot of criteria on that. That would be narrowing opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 203-15(3): Premier's Awards For Excellence Program**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier then that these are called Premier's awards, but it sounds like he doesn't have any input into who gets chosen, he doesn't finely screen the recipients in the end. Wouldn't the Premier agree that these awards would have more meaning and would be regarded more highly if he personally would become involved in it, and if there was some sensitivity to some balance of who works in the public service in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Hear! Hear!

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 203-15(3): Premier's Awards For Excellence Program**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member that anything I put my hands on is probably going to improve substantially.

---Laughter

I will certainly take her advice on that and, yes, I would like to review this one because we did not get as many applications as I would like to have seen. So, Mr. Speaker, I think this is again another one that we will want to look at and ask if the process we are using is an appropriate one. The deputies, the team who are putting it together, tried to be as open as possible, advertise as broadly as possible, and open it up. But with advice from the Members, I'd certainly, for the next time around, look and see if there is a better way of doing this. I am always open to improving any of the programs we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 203-15(3): Premier's Awards For Excellence Program**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to hear that the Premier will take this under his authority, and see that this program is intended for what it is meant to be. I will take that commitment, and that is satisfactory to me. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Question 204-15(3): Repatriation Of Clients With Disabilities**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me one final question probably before the House adjourns for the summer. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, with regard to addressing our special needs and those with developmental disabilities that are currently taken care of down south. Can the Minister provide me with some assurances about what steps we as a government can take in the long-term to address developing our own capacities for taking care of our own? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 204-15(3): Repatriation Of Clients With Disabilities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've indicated what the plan is going to be in terms of looking at the issue of repatriation as it applies across the board. As well, we have a number of other reviews underway; for example, the issue of trying to deal with the cognitively impaired, which is an area that is well requiring very special attention. So in the short term we are going to review what is possible as a result of the transition or move out of APYS. In the longer term we are going to do a client-by-client review, but also look at

the level of service that is required and see what can be in fact done in the North, and what we are still going to require to contract out of territory. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for question period has expired, however, I will allow a supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 204-15(3): Repatriation Of Clients With Disabilities**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. This will probably be my final question. It is just that I am glad the Minister is aware of our need to take care of our own. What direction is the Minister leaning towards of developing our own people? I am sure we have the facilities, but what can be done to develop our people in terms of how we can take care of our own, in terms of the special training, the special services that surround the provision of care by our people with development disabilities down south? Can we truly have those facilities and the people here to take care of our own in the future, Mr. Speaker?

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 204-15(3): Repatriation Of Clients With Disabilities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have over the last few years put nursing programs in place, we have social work programs, we are now doing registered care aid programs, we are going to put back into effect the community health representative programs, we are supporting students in post-secondary situations in medical school. So we have initiatives on a whole number of fronts in terms of trying to develop a northern workforce in these very specialized areas. So we still struggle with some of the psychiatric specialties, and those types of very advanced services, but we are committed if you look across the North to the personal care units we've built, the tertiary level facilities, second layer level facilities we've built to deal with elders and those with other needs. So we are going to continue that commitment. We are going to review the current southern placement list, and we are going to see what is possible in terms of short-term repatriation, as well as look at the longer term, as I have indicated. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Members, at this time I would like to draw your attention to a former Member of this House in the gallery, Roy Erasmus, a Member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly for Weledeh.

---Applause

I'd also like to draw your attention to Susan Legler, acting executive secretary to our Commissioner, the Honourable Glenna Hansen. Welcome to the gallery Ms. Legler.

---Applause

Also a frequent visitor Major Karen Hoefft, and everyone else in the gallery. Welcome.

---Applause

At this time we have quite a number of people waiting in the gallery for the Premier's Awards of Excellence. So I think we will call a short break at this time, a 15-minute break to deal with the awards.

---SHORT RECESS

**MR. SPEAKER:** I'll call the House back to order. Orders of the day. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Written Question 24-15(3): Residential Schools**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have five written questions. My questions today are for the Premier, the Honourable Joseph Handley.

1. What is the direction of this government in providing support for survivors of residential schools?
2. Where can survivors of residential schools go to receive specific treatment for issues that are a result of the residential schools?
3. How is this government working with the office of Indian residential schools established by the federal government?
4. Would the Premier provide this House with clear direction as to where survivors can receive assistance in respect to residential school court support?
5. Is historical information available on how many children in the NWT attended residential schools, mission schools and boarding schools over the years? If this information is available could a regional breakdown of this information be provided?

**Written Question 25-14(3): Closure Of The Fort Good Hope Bridge**

Mr. Speaker, my second written question is to the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Michael McLeod, on the closure of the Fort Good Hope Bridge. Will the Minister provide responses to the following questions?

1. When will the report of the recent bridge closure in Fort Good Hope be released?
2. How many of these types of bridges are in use in other places in the Northwest Territories?
3. Will the report look at the department's procedures in constructing and putting such bridges into place?
4. Will the Minister also release a new action plan to address similar situations should they ever arise in other places in the North?

**Written Question 26-15(3): Tulita Water Treatment Facility**

Mr. Speaker, my third written question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Michael

McLeod, on the Tulita water treatment facility. Would the Minister provide the following responses for the following questions?

1. What are the plans to finally resolve the concerns regarding the water treatment facility in Tulita?
2. What steps will the Minister take to ensure that the people of Tulita will enjoy a safe and secure water treatment facility?
3. What are the timelines for resolving the water treatment facility concerns that are being expressed by the people of Tulita?

**Written Question 27-15(3): Housing Data And Programs For The Sahtu Region**

Mr. Speaker, my fourth written question is to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation on housing data and programs in the Sahtu region. Can the Minister provide responses to the following questions?

1. How many people in the Sahtu region reside in public housing?
2. How many elders over 60 years of age have their own homes?
3. How many adults between the ages of 20 and 40 years reside in public housing?
4. What is the policy regarding seasonal workers who are living in public housing in respect to the rental scale?
5. Where will the new mobile homes be located in communities, specifically in the Sahtu region?
6. How does the NWT Housing Corporation plan to address the high number of homes requiring urgent renovations in the Sahtu region?

**Written Question 28-15(3): Local Business Opportunities To Perform Municipal And Community Affairs Services**

Mr. Speaker, my last question is to the honourable Minister Michael McLeod and these are for Municipal and Community Affairs regarding local business opportunities to perform municipal and community affairs services. Would the Minister provide responses to the following questions?

1. What are the policies the department operates under when awarding contracts or supporting local businesses as it relates to work performed on behalf of the department?
2. When will local businesses be provided an opportunity to negotiate with the department to perform work on their behalf?
3. Will the Minister ensure that all regions are advised of any changes in procedures related to supporting local businesses?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Written Question 29-15(3): Living On Income Support**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two written questions. I have a long one and a short one. I'll start with the short one. Mr. Speaker, my first question goes to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent.

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister, the Honourable Charles Dent, agree to take a personal challenge with me by living without a phone service and personal transportation for one single day to recognize for even a brief increment as to how exhausting the struggle must be living on income support?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Ruled Out of Order

**Written Question 30-15(3): Business Credit Corporation**

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to read my second written question and it's the long one.

Mr. Speaker, I've recently been made aware that recipients of loans under the Business Credit Corporation are free from any public scrutiny unless they are written off as bad debts. Mr. Speaker, however, the Business Development Fund, accountable to the same Minister, has its own report solely for the purpose of recording the names on the loans and how much has been given out on each loan. Mr. Speaker, that is truly accountability. The public has no idea how much public money is being lent and they are not privy to whom it is lent to because section 15 under the BCC Act protects the borrower and not the lender, which is, in this case, the public.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the Minister not to take steps but to rather take leaps in addressing public accountability and to help remove the stigma that the BCC is the bank for the well connected.

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister responsible for the BCC Act, using his directive ability, correct this flaw and report back to Members a list of whom the BCC has lent money to and how much they have lent in that last 10 years?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I'd just like to remind Members that the purpose of written questions is to seek technical, detailed information that is not readily available to the Minister, and there is usually no preamble to written questions, so specific to the question. Item 7, written questions. 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. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.



**ITEM 13: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS****Tabled Document 52-15(3): List Of Interactivity Transfers Over \$250,000**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As required 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, 2004 to May 26, 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Tabled Document 53-15(3): Health And Social Services Action Plan, Status Report**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled NWT Health and Social Services Action Plan, Status Report, October 2003 to March 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 13, tabling of documents.

**Tabled Document 54-15(3): Annual Report Respecting Capital Accommodation Expenses**

Pursuant to section 35(b) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the annual report respecting capital accommodation expenses for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004.

**Tabled Document 55-15(3): Annual Report Respecting Members' Indemnities And Allowances**

Pursuant to section 35(a) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the annual report respecting Members' indemnities and allowances for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004.

**Tabled Document 56-15(3): Annual Report Respecting Members' Constituency Expenses**

Pursuant to section 35(c) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the annual report respecting Members' constituency expenses for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004.

**Tabled Document 57-15(3): Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund Financial Statements**

Pursuant to section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table the financial statements for the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Fund for the year ending March 31, 2004.

**Tabled Document 58-15(3): NWT Languages Commissioner 2003-2004 Annual Report**

Pursuant to section 23 of the Official Languages Act, I wish to table the 2003-2004 annual report of the Office of the Northwest Territories Languages Commissioner.

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION****Motion 13-15(3): Appointment To Standing Committees**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004 I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Legislative Assembly approves the appointment of the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe, to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, and to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Motion 14-15(3): Extended Adjournment Of The House To October 13, 2004**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, October 13, 2004; and further, that any time prior to October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultations with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time than adjourned to, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at a time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion he gave notice of earlier today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with your motion, Mr. Menicoche.

**ITEM 16: MOTIONS****Motion 13-15(3): Appointment To Standing Committees**

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

WHEREAS there are vacancies on standing committees due to the election of the honourable Member for Hay River North to the Speaker's position;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill these vacancies;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Legislative Assembly approves the appointment of the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe, to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, and to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures.

**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. The honourable Member for Sahtu, 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:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion he gave notice of earlier today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with your motion, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### **Motion 14-15(3): Extended Adjournment Of The House To October 13, 2004**

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

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Wednesday, June 2, 2004, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to October 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 a time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I'm going to tell the Assembly that I'll be voting against the motion. I told the assembly earlier that I would be speaking against it, although I would not stop unanimous consent to proceed with this motion strictly on my own personal belief.

The assembly was scheduled to continue to Thursday. It is my opinion, even though we did not have bills to pass, business was done in an orderly fashion, which I would commend, but I believe we are missing out on valuable question time. Mr. Speaker, just to quickly sum up, we're missing out on question time and it will be five months almost until we meet in this House and I think that's a

valuable opportunity missed. So I'll be voting against the motion. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** 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. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. 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. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

#### **ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS**

##### **Bill 5: Tlicho Community Government Act**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 5, Tlicho Community Government Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. A motion is on the floor. 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

---Applause

Bill five has received third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

##### **Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2004-2005**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2004-2005, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. A motion is on the floor. 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 11 has had third reading.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, will you please ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Glenna Hansen, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills?

**Assent To Bills**

**COMMISSIONER HANSEN:** Please be seated. Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, thank you for all the work you have done during this sitting of the Legislative Assembly. I look forward to enjoying the celebrations planned for both National Aboriginal Day and Canada Day, two very important days on our calendar. I hope you, your families and all the people in your communities have the opportunity to join in the ceremonies and fun that marks our regard for these very special days.

Now as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills: Bill 5, Tlicho Community Government Act; Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Payroll Tax Act, 1993 and the Income Tax Act; and, Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2004-05.

My prayer for you and your families is that God will bless your time with them and that He will grant you travelling mercies to be with your constituents. I wish you all a very pleasant and happy summer and look forward to your return back to this House in October. Mahsi.

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

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, there will be a swearing-in ceremony for Mr. Krutko immediately on the rise of the House today. Following that, there will be meetings of the Governance and Economic Development committee and the Social Programs committee. There will be a meeting of the Board of Management tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 13, 2004:

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 Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. As we adjourn for the summer, I would just like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe journey home. I do hope you take some time to spend some valuable time with family and friends over the summer.

I also want to wish you all success and encourage you to take part in the celebrations of Canada Day and National Aboriginal Day and take some time to spend time on the land. For some of you, I am sure that will take a different meaning. All the best to all of you and your families and I look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

---Applause

This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 13, 2004.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



