



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, October 13, 2004**

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**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Wednesday, October 13, 2004

### Members Present

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):** It is a pleasure to welcome you back to the Third Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. To our visitors in the gallery and to those of you following along on the Yellowknife CAT channel or later tonight on APTN, I offer you a very warm welcome. It has been an eventful summer and early fall. A recent announcement regarding the Mackenzie Valley pipeline and the federal government's Throne speech have given us much food for thought. This ensures that lively dialogue will ensue. To assist the Members in maintaining their normal levels of decorum, I welcome our new Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Brian Thagard.

---Applause

Mr. Thagard brings a wealth of experience to his new position. Brian has served this Legislature in other critical capacities for a number of years. Now his responsibilities have been expanded to include the safety and security of the Chamber. I know his intimate knowledge of Assembly operations will be of benefit to Members and all whom we serve.

I bid a fond farewell to Ms. Nicole Latour-Theede, who served us so well in this post for the past few years. Ms. Latour-Theede brought a sense of pride to this position that befits the office. Her contributions will be sorely missed. On behalf of all Members, many thanks, Nicole.

---Applause

Some people have said that the only constant in this Assembly is change. In that light, I would also like to welcome Mr. Darrin Ouellette, our newest table officer.

---Applause

Darrin joins this Assembly from the Department of Transportation through the GNWT's Management Assignment Program. This Legislative Assembly is pleased to support Darrin in his pursuits. We trust he will benefit from his time here at the Legislative Assembly. He will be assisting Mr. Mercer during that period of time that Mr. Andrew Stewart is away from our service pursuing further educational opportunities. Good luck in your studies, Andrew.

At this time, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Louise Pargeter and Lieutenant Chris Saunders who have recently had their lives cut short in their line of duty. They will be sorely missed by their communities and their country. I understand Mr. Pokiak will be seeking your indulgence to observe a moment of silence for the four missing hunters

from Tuktoyaktuk. At that time, I encourage you to also turn your thoughts and prayers to Ms. Pargeter and Lieutenant Saunders and their families.

In the gallery today, I am pleased to recognize the Consul General for the United States of America, Mr. Naim Ahmed.

---Applause

It is also my personal distinct pleasure to take notice of the attendance in the gallery of former Speaker, Mr. Tony Whitford. Welcome, Tony.

---Applause

It is always a pleasure to see you here. Next to Tony is Senator Nick Sibbeston in the gallery.

---Applause

Speaking of familiar faces, greetings to Mr. David Hamilton, long-time Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and our current Chief Electoral Officer for the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Welcome back, David. We miss your smiling face. With Mr. Hamilton today is Mr. Glen McLean, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, whom I am also pleased to welcome to this House.

---Applause

We also have other distinguished guests in the gallery who I welcome and who will get personal recognition later on.

Welcome to our Pages. I know Mr. Thagard will be keeping a watchful eye on your efforts. Thank you for joining us here today.

Expressions of thanks also go out to the teachers of our northern schools for doing a fine job. If these young people are any indication, they are doing that.

I would also like Members to note that I have received written communication from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Glenna Hansen. It is dated October 5, 2004, and reads: "Dear Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005, and Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004, during the Third Session of the Legislative Assembly."

### Speaker's Ruling

Before we go on, I would like to provide a ruling on Written Question 29-15(3), submitted by Mr. Hawkins on June 2, 2004. Written questions, like oral questions, must be a question. Clearly, Mr. Hawkins' question to Mr. Dent was not a question and, therefore, I ruled it out of order.

I thank you all for your patience and attention. So we should now move to orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

### ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

#### Minister's Statement 48-15(3): Sessional Statement

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome you and all Members back to the Assembly after a busy and productive summer.

This summer, Members of Cabinet were able to travel to many communities at the invitation of Members to meet with local councils, organizations and residents, or to attend summer assemblies. I had the good fortune to attend many of the summer assemblies, including the Deh Cho Assembly in Kakisa, the Northwest Territories Metis Nation Assembly in Fort Smith, the Akaitcho Assembly in Ndilo, the Tlicho Assembly in Gameti, and the Dene National Assembly at Yellowknife River.

On the invitation of National Chief Phil Fontaine and NWT Regional Chief Bill Erasmus, I also attended and spoke to the Assembly of First Nations in Charlottetown. This continues a strong working relationship we have established with the AFN on issues affecting First Nations people in the Northwest Territories. It also provided an opportunity to encourage AFN to hold their 2005 assembly in the Northwest Territories.

We are now almost a full year into the term of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and this is a good time to take stock of our work to date.

When we first met as a Legislature in January, we committed to run an open and transparent government, to find ways to work better with our partners and to pursue the finalization of aboriginal rights agreements throughout the territory. We also committed, as a government, to run a tight fiscal ship, but to consider strategic investments that make sense in light of the priorities we collectively established as a government, as a Caucus and as northern leaders.

Mr. Speaker, we have worked hard to meet our commitment "to work together to make consensus government stronger, to ensure transparency and openness and be more responsive to the people of the Northwest Territories."

We have moved decisively to deal with concerns raised about the conduct of members of the public service or Cabinet. We have established new mechanisms such as the Joint AOC/Cabinet Committee on Pipeline Planning and the Working Group on Boards and Agencies to work in a more collaborative manner with Regular Members. We have taken deliberate decisions as a Legislature and as a government to work in partnerships with aboriginal governments, municipal governments and other partners through forums such as the Circle of Northern Leaders.

These are important steps in meeting our commitment to run government in a more open, transparent and cooperative manner. We recognize, however, that we must continue to be vigilant to ensure this continues.

Mr. Speaker, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of aboriginal and public governments are in a process of transition that will establish new relationships between people and governments of the Northwest Territories. The completion and implementation of aboriginal rights agreements will change the nature and function of the territorial government itself and bring certainty to shape and structure of governance in the Northwest Territories. This is a positive step for those who live and do business here. I want to highlight a couple of milestones on the road to self-determination.

During the current session, the government will introduce the Tlicho Community Services Agency Act. This bill was developed in consultation with the Tlicho Treaty 11 Tribal Council and is the final piece of territorial legislation required to ratify the Tlicho Agreement. It follows the Settlement Act passed at the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly and the Tlicho Community Government Act passed in the spring.

---Applause

On September 20<sup>th</sup> in Tulita, the negotiators at the Tulita self-government table initiated the Tulita Self-Government Framework Agreement and work has already started on the agreement-in-principle. I look forward to signing this agreement on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories in the near future.

---Applause

The Government of the Northwest Territories is fully committed to concluding aboriginal rights negotiators and to meeting its obligations to implement these agreements in a timely manner. We do so on the understanding that there is no one-size fits all solution to aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories. The differences in the governments that will be established under these two agreements, the Tlicho and Tulita, illustrate our determination and commitment to work with aboriginal governments on agreements that make sense to their particular circumstance.

Mr. Speaker, on May 26<sup>th</sup>, I was pleased to introduce the Government of the Northwest Territories' strategic plan to the Legislative Assembly. This plan was developed with input from leaders and people in the Northwest Territories and reflects many of the priorities of the Members of this Legislative Assembly. While we intend to provide regular updates on our progress on the strategic plan, I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of our work to date.

When I introduced the strategic plan, I told this House that the government was committed to sound fiscal management. I said we intended to move forward in a manner that ensures our long-term fiscal sustainability. This would require difficult but necessary choices. Under the leadership of the Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Floyd Roland, we have been working hard to solidify our fiscal position. The first budget of this government signalled our intention to live within our means. Since then, we have been looking at many areas of government where we can improve our effectiveness and efficiency. This work is continuing as we develop our business plans for 2005-06 and beyond. Mr. Roland will

be providing more detail on his work in his budget address in early 2005.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with our first goal of the strategic plan, we have been working hard to ensure that northern issues remain high on the national agenda. In early July, I had the pleasure of hosting the Western Premiers' Conference in Inuvik. At the Western Premiers' Conference, or WPC, we secured the support from western Premiers for a number of critical NWT issues including: an open letter to the Prime Minister from all western Premiers calling for a strong political commitment to conclude negotiations on a fair devolution deal without delay; support for additional resources from the federal government to address unique challenges of delivering health care in remote regions as part of a long-term health care agreement; support for a northern economic development fund that provides the three territories authority to direct expenditures; and, the creation of a Western Energy Alliance.

As chair of this meeting, I invited a number of regional aboriginal leaders to meet with the Premiers to discuss health care. The meeting was an important first step in the subsequent participation of national aboriginal organizations and the Council of the Federation and First Ministers' meetings that followed the WPC.

The success of the WPC was a result of the relaxed and enjoyable environment in Inuvik. This would not have been possible without the contributions of many people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people, the Town of Inuvik, our corporate sponsors and the many volunteers who donated their time and energy to make this conference a success.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, we took a number of important steps at the First Ministers' meeting in September to address the inequities in our funding arrangement with Canada. We were able to secure an agreement with the federal government to create a health access fund for the three territories of \$150 million over five years, starting in 2004-05. This fund will have three components. At least \$75 million will be provided for medical transportation; \$65 million will be provided to the three territories to target innovative and adaptive strategies for long-term health reforms; and \$10 million will be used to create a joint federal/territorial working group to look at policy and program management approaches to health delivery in the North.

As important as this funding is to the Northwest Territories, it is perhaps more important that the federal government has formally recognized that the unique challenges of delivering health care in the northern territories require funding over and above the normal per capita share. The Minister of Health and Social Services, the honourable Minister Miltenberger, will be attending a meeting with his federal, provincial, and territorial colleagues on October 15<sup>th</sup> to further flesh out the details of this agreement.

In January, I told this Legislative Assembly that a priority of this government was improving our financial arrangements with Canada. At the September meeting of the First Ministers, we made progress on this priority with the commitment made by the Prime Minister to increase the base funding provided to the three territories under our

territorial financing agreements. Although the details of this agreement will not be worked out until the northern Premiers meet with the Prime Minister at the October First Ministers' meeting, we expect that the net result will be a significant increase in our grant from the federal government on a go forward basis.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we secured a commitment from the Prime Minister to work with the three territories and other northern partners to jointly develop a vision for the North. This initiative, the first comprehensive northern strategy in memory, was confirmed in the October 5<sup>th</sup> Speech from the Throne. Our success in keeping Northwest Territories' issues on a national agenda is an important step in meeting the first goal of our strategic plan: to build a strong northern voice and identity.

Mr. Speaker, the second goal of our strategic plan is to have healthy, educated people living in safe communities who are able to contribute and take advantage of life's opportunities. I want to highlight a number of initiatives that move us closer to this important goal.

Family violence is a serious and troubling issue in the Northwest Territories. In response to this problem, the Coalition Against Family Violence released an NWT action plan on family violence last spring. This action plan was developed based on territory-wide consultations and with recommendations from frontline workers, government departments, community groups, and the RCMP. I want to take the opportunity to publicly recognize and applaud the work of the coalition in developing this plan. Later, during this session, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, the Honourable Charles Dent, will be releasing the government's response to the action plan.

The problems associated with alcohol abuse in the Northwest Territories are many and one of the most serious is drinking and driving. Last week, the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Michael McLeod, joined with key stakeholder groups such as SADD and the RCMP to announce new measures taken to help RCMP deter impaired driving on our streets and highways. Amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act providing strict new measures that lower permissible blood-alcohol content to .05 percent and provide for immediate roadside licence suspensions will come into force on December 1, 2004.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, the health problems associated with smoking are well documented. The unfortunate truth is that smoking levels in the Northwest Territories are far above the national average. As part of the health promotion strategy which promotes health and well-being by providing education and awareness about healthy lifestyles, we are working hard to encourage people to quit smoking. Through the Department of Health and Social Services, we are undertaking a number of initiatives including a media strategy and school curriculum aimed at youth. We believe these initiatives, combined with the support of the community leadership and parents, will lead us toward markedly lower smoking rates among young northerners.

The provision of health and family support services is an important component of our health care system. On May 18, 2004, Health and Social Services implemented a toll-free telephone nursing service that increases the ability of

the Northwest Territories residents to care for themselves, provide support for health and social service providers and has the potential to decrease non-urgent after-hours call-outs. This service is universally accessible to NWT residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can be accessed in English, French and the majority of the NWT's aboriginal languages.

Mr. Speaker, the education of northerners of all ages is a priority of this government. I want to highlight a number of important initiatives led by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent. We are undertaking to improve education opportunities for our residents. This fall, we will be implementing the Dene Kede Grade 9 curriculum for all of our schools. Dene Kede is designed to help students understand their identity as individuals and as members of a community and ensure that they receive instruction that incorporates an aboriginal perspective. Recognizing our cultural and heritage activities and the need to respond to the needs and rights of all of our northern citizens, we are pleased to announce the breaking of ground for Ecole Boreal, a new school providing French-first-language education to students in Hay River. Last week, in Inuvik, we opened a new Aurora Campus facility. The facility is a giant step forward in ensuring that adults in the Beaufort-Delta have access to a modern learning environment. In keeping with our priorities to provide people with tools to take advantage of the opportunities that exist in the Northwest Territories, we have formed a unique partnership with aboriginal governments and organizations, private industry partners and the federal government to provide training under the aboriginal skills and employment partnership initiative. This partnership will result in over \$50 million going to fund training programs in oil and gas and mining sectors.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, aside from the direct investments in education and health programs, there are many other ways the government contributes to building a healthy and productive society. Perhaps the most important of these is the provision of programming aimed at our young people. One such initiative is the youth summer camps established in 14 of our communities. Through the Pan-Territorial Sports Strategy, a partnership with the Government of Canada, MACA has worked with territorial sports and recreation organizations to offer camps that focus on a variety of sports including softball, soccer, canoeing, kayaking, and mountain biking. These camps have provided opportunities for more than 900 young northerners to develop their skills. In addition to the summer camp program, more than \$1 million has gone to fund innovative pilot programs over the past two years. These programs have focused on developing both employment-related and traditional skills for young people in the North. Projects such as the Sahtu and Rae-Edzo Trapper Training Program, the Kakisa and Nahanni Butte Outdoor Education program, the Cole Crook fiddle camp, and the Inuvialuit Development Corporation Youth Leadership Program have helped numerous youth expand their skills and build their self-esteem.

A healthy, educated society requires affordable and adequate housing. The challenge of ensuring access to such housing remains a priority for this government. The Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the Honourable David Krutko, has been working with housing industry leaders to explore new and

innovative ways to deliver housing. Promising technologies include the reconfiguration of temporary units to permanent dwellings.

The third goal of the strategic plan is to develop well-governed communities and regions able to fulfill their potential. An important step in allowing communities to take control of their own affairs is the new deal for community governments announced last spring by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Michael McLeod. Working with community governments through the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, we intend to build on work already in progress to provide communities with expanded authority to raise their own revenues and take more control over capital planning for community infrastructure. When combined with proposals by the Government of Canada, we believe this will provide communities with the tools to help address their critical infrastructure needs.

In June, this Legislative Assembly enacted the Tlicho Community Government Act. This groundbreaking legislation was developed in partnership with the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and sets the stage for the four Tlicho communities to assume new authority when the Tlicho Final Agreement becomes effective. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will be working closely with leadership and community staff to ensure that Tlicho communities are equipped to step into their expanded governance role. Work is underway on developing bylaws and preparing for the transfer of land administration and other responsibilities.

Building on capacity at the community level remains a major focus of the government. To achieve this end, we are undertaking a number of notable initiatives. The School of Community Government is working with the federal government with regional and local stakeholders to deliver comprehensive and integrated training to community governments.

We are working with the Aboriginal Finance Officers Association to deliver a nationally-accredited and certified aboriginal financial managers designation.

We are working in partnership with the NWT Association of Communities to certify community government employees under the Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupations Certification Act. Since last March, 16 employees have been certified in six professions.

We are working with communities to develop fire-smart community plans to minimize the impact of wildfire on them. These plans include land use planning, emergency and fire response planning, public education training and fire prevention strategies. To date, the communities of Fort Smith, Fort Providence, Enterprise and Norman Wells have adopted fire-smart principles and have planning committees in place.

We also set an ambitious goal to develop a diversified economy that provides northerners with opportunities and choices. A diversified economy depends on reliable infrastructure. In partnership with the federal government through the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund, we are investing \$158 million over the next five years to improve driving services on the various highways, including a major reconstruction of the Dempster Highway and completion of reconstruction of Highway No. 3.



---Applause

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

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through this program and other cost-shared agreements with the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, we are continuing with the Mackenzie Valley winter road bridges program. All in all, the program includes the installation of 22 permanent bridges over water crossings and great improvements to the winter road itself.

Transportation continues to work with the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation in a public/private partnership towards the construction of the first highway bridge over the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence. The proponent of this project is presently engaged in securing the required regulatory approvals. Public hearings before the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board are scheduled to begin on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. The current construction schedule anticipates the opening of the Deh Cho Bridge to traffic in late 2006.

With a growing, buoyant economy it is becoming increasingly important to ensure that businesses have access to the capital required to grow and produce jobs and economic benefits. During the current session, the Minister of RWED, the Honourable Brendan Bell, will introduce a new Business Development and Investment Corporation Act. The new act will consolidate GNWT business assistance programming under a business development and investment corporation that will provide the necessary focus and flexibility to meet existing and future business needs in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, resource development, particularly diamonds and gas, continues to be the engine that drives the Northwest Territories economy. Since the conclusion of the last Legislative Assembly, we have successfully negotiated a comprehensive environmental agreement and socioeconomic agreement with de Beers regarding the development of their proposed Snap Lake mine. These agreements help ensure that the environment is protected and that northern resources are developed in a manner that provides meaningful, long-term benefits to northerners.

At the national level, we have been working with our provincial and territorial colleagues to develop an action plan for the National Diamond Strategy. The action plan focuses on three fundamental issues that must be taken into account if the diamond industry in Canada is to be developed in a sustainable way: the supply of Canadian-sourced diamonds, the demand for diamonds processed in Canada and the regulation of the markets. The importance of the Mackenzie gas project to the long-term strategic interests of the Northwest Territories and the socioeconomic benefits of our people in the communities cannot be overstated. The Government of the Northwest Territories remains fully committed to this project, to the joint panel process established to review it, and into ensuring northerners fully benefit from this development.

We are encouraged by the announcement last week that the Mackenzie Delta Producers Group and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group have filed the environmental impact statement and detailed federal applications for the Mackenzie gas project. This filing represents major progress towards the construction of the Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline and associated gas field facilities in the Mackenzie Delta of the Northwest Territories. Much of the credit for the progress we have made to date must go to Fred Carmichael and Nellie Cournoyea from the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, and the former president of Imperial Oil Ltd, K.C. Williams.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of coverage in the media over the past several weeks and months about some of the possible impediments to this development; issues concerning aboriginal rights, the regulatory regime and a need to ensure our natural environment is protected. These issues are of real significance. We recognize the challenge this project presents to our natural environment, to traditional economies and the traditional culture of the peoples of the Northwest Territories, and we are committed to working with the leadership in the Northwest Territories and interested groups to find solutions. We also believe that these issues must be considered in tandem with long-term interests of the Northwest Territories.

One of the most important of these long-term interests is an equitable division of the revenues among the federal government and northern governments, both the GNWT and aboriginal governments, and it is a critical missing link as we move closer to the devolvement of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. It is for this reason that we have proposed to the federal government that we consider an interim arrangement on revenue sharing that allows northern governments to receive a benefit immediately from these developments.

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

---Applause

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** As I noted earlier, we have established a Joint Cabinet/Accountability and Oversight Pipeline Planning Committee to ensure our preparations and planning are as inclusive as possible. This committee will provide guidance and advice as we move forward in planning for the pipeline and negotiating a comprehensive socioeconomic agreement with the proponents of the Mackenzie gas project.

Mr. Speaker, our goal of a diversified economy goes hand in hand with our goal of caring and protecting the environment. We have a keen commitment to environmental stewardship. We have taken a proactive approach to this stewardship by creating and implementing initiatives that will protect our natural environment; initiatives such as the protected areas strategy.

Working with our partners in the Protected Areas Strategy we have advanced interim protection for Sahyoue/Edacho, Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills, in the Sahtu and for Edehzhie, Horn Plateau, in the Deh Cho. Our staff have also been working with communities on various information requests regarding protected areas.

We are also working on other important initiatives, such as the air quality code of practice for upstream oil and gas industry. This code is to be completed by the end of 2004. It will provide clear and consistent guidance in our requirements related to air emissions, emissions abatement and best practices.

Mr. Speaker, a great deal has been accomplished over the past 10 months. We're working hard to meet the commitment we made for an open, transparent government; a government that works in partnership with aboriginal governments, stakeholder groups and residents of this great territory. We have also made notable progress on the key elements of our strategic plan. We look forward to working with our partners to continue this progress and realize the full promise and potential of this great territory. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The time for Ministers' statements has expired. The Chair will recognize Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Minister's Statement 48-15(3) be moved into Committee of the Whole.

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

**Motion To Move Minister's Statement 48-15(3) Into Committee Of The Whole, Carried**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I'd like to correct that, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that Minister's Statement 48-15(3) be moved into Committee of the Whole.

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

Minister's Statement 48-15(3) is moved into Committee of the Whole. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Member's Statement On Four Missing Hunters From Tuktoyaktuk**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fall is nearly over and the community of Tuktoyaktuk goes out on the land for the annual subsistence hunt and stocks up on fish, geese and caribou. During the business plan meetings in Yellowknife I became aware on Sunday, October 1, 2004, of four local residents who were considered overdue. These four individuals did not report or return home and after a couple of days they were considered missing. Bad weather in and around Tuktoyaktuk delayed the search and rescue efforts. When the weather subsided, an extensive search and rescue

effort came into play with the assistance of the Canadian Coast Guard, RCMP, Tuk Canadian Rangers, U.S. Search and Rescue, and many volunteers. Considered lost are Mr. Frank Steen and his son Paul...Excuse me.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Chair will recognize Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I will read the rest of Mr. Pokiak's statement.

Considered lost is Mr. Frank Steen and his son Paul, and Ronald Rufus and his son Kyle. They are considered experienced hunters. Members of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly may remember Paul Steen. He served as a Page and his dream was to become an MLA for the Nunakput riding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Premier Joe Handley; Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, MP, Western Arctic; Mayor Jackie Jacobson and council; the RCMP; the Canadian Rangers; the local individuals of Tuktoyaktuk; the Canadian Coast Guard; U.S. Search and Rescue; and the air charter companies from Inuvik that assisted during this difficult time for the families, and also to the outlying communities for their generous support and prayers for the families. I would like to send my regards to the immediate and extended families of Donna Steen and Darlene Felix. On behalf of the constituents of Nunakput, our prayers are with you.

Mr. Speaker in closing I would also like to extend best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. John Lucas, Sr. of Sachs Harbour, my brother-in-law who is recovering from a mild heart attack at Stanton Hospital.

Mr. Speaker with the permission of my colleagues, I would like to request a moment of silence and a prayer for Donna Steen and Darlene Felix on the safe return of their loved ones. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay, for Mr. Pokiak. I ask Members to rise and join Mr. Pokiak in a moment of silence.

---Moment of Silence

Indeed all of our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families at this trying time. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Member's Statement On International Dene Elders And Youth Gathering In Calgary**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today is about the international Dene elders and youth gathering. As we assemble here today to discuss the pressing issues facing our people, a group of Dene elders and youth from across the continent are gathering at the Tsuu T'ina Reserve outside of Calgary, to discuss important issues of their own. The three-day event begins October 13<sup>th</sup> and finished up on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. This historical gathering marks the first time members of all the Dene families have met face to face after many centuries of separation from each other on the North American continent.

Elders and youths representing the Dene groups from across North America -- the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, South Slavey, Dogrib, Chipewyan, Beaver, Navajo and Apache - were all there to explore similarities amongst the Dene groups. Over the course of the three days the groups will be discussing the importance of preservation and

protection of language, history and culture of the Dene people. The main object of this international gathering is to provide an opportunity for Dene people to gather together and have a sense of solidarity, to begin to think of themselves as one nation. Dene people of the Northwest Territories are well represented at the event. Two elders from Fort Good Hope are there on behalf of the Sahtu region. There are also elders from Fort Rae, Fort Smith, Hay River, Lutselk'e and Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very exciting event. I can tell you from personal experience that my people have been waiting a long time for this event. The Dene people and Gwich'in from across the continent have been foretold by prophets for many generations. An international Dene gathering is a positive step towards promoting co-existence and co-prosperity for all the future Dene groups.

I would like to thank the organization for coordinating this event. I trust that this will be a success and I am looking forward to a follow-up gathering in 2006, when Dene leaders from across the continent will be able to find common ground to lead the Dene forward in a united voice. I will have questions for the Premier at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Retroactive Pay For Correctional Officers**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about the unjust delay the correctional officers are having to go through in getting their retroactive pay from this government.

First of all, I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, this whole issue has been an ongoing saga for over five years. Throughout that time a group of correctional officers had to fight step by step for an increase in pay from job evaluations given to other correctional officers doing the same jobs due to a technical error argument put forward by the government. They worked patiently through their appeal and grievance process and finally on January 9<sup>th</sup> of this year they received a favourable arbitration decision fair and square.

Throughout this time, I was assured by the government that it would live up to its obligations coming out of the arbitration. In fact, Mr. Speaker, this House passed a supplementary appropriation during the last budget session to accommodate this retroactive pay.

So imagine, Mr. Speaker, my disappointment and surprise when I was informed earlier this summer that they still have not received their retroactive pay and that they would not receive it until the end of August. That was bad enough, but it's been getting worse. The latest information is that the deadline has now been moved to the end of November and there is a very good possibility that this could be delayed again.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply outrageous. Some of these officers are entitled to tens of thousands of dollars and they are not even entitled to any interest payments while the government continues to keep their money indefinitely. For the life of me, I don't understand why the government has to turn this good news item into such a PR disaster

and a morale buster. Mr. Speaker, this is a really bad way to treat all the public servants involved, the correctional officers and the payroll officers, and there appears to be more bad news to come, Mr. Speaker.

We know that just since last spring many health care professionals have received an increase in pay due to a re-evaluation of their positions. My information is that all of them have to line up behind all the other retroactive files, including correctional officers, without any additional human resources being put forward, Mr. Speaker. I have had a number of discussions about this in private, and the best answer I get from the government is that there is a shortage of staff due to high turnover and that this is a highly technical field that people can't just be trained to do, and so the contingent of payroll officers in existence...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ms. Lee, your time for your Member's statement has expired.

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ms. Lee is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So my information is that even though there's all this extra work that needs to be put through to do these retroactive files, which I hear is very labour-intensive, there are no additional staff being hired, so the contingent of payroll officers that are in place have to do this as extra work on top of their regular work. So, Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous, this is totally unacceptable and I urge the Minister of FMBS and this government to take immediate steps to do better and pay these officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, thank you. This summer has, as the Premier has reflected in his sessional statement, seen a level of activity that can only guarantee that the NWT's future as one of Canada's most vibrant and vigorous economies will continue. The overall economic growth for 2003 here in the NWT was 10.6 percent; six times that of Canada. Over the next three years or so we will see two new diamond mines constructed: Snap Lake in the NWT and the nearby Jericho project in Nunavut. We will see the continuing acceleration of production at the other diamond mines. Mr. Speaker, both Diavik and BHP earn dazzling profit margins as they shave years off the expected life of those mines. In the energy portfolio, we are told to expect \$50 million in this winter's seismic exploration and drilling programs in the Mackenzie Delta as producers chase new supplies of record-breaking prices for a world that knows no limits in its hunger for energy.

We've seen the planning advance for the Bear River hydro station to help power the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, and that pipeline, Mr. Speaker, also advanced to its long-awaited filing for regulatory approval. At 1,200 kilometres

and \$7 billion, it is the biggest and most challenging prize for all of the 42,000 people of the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to spend too much time reading from the Minister of RWED's script. Instead I'd like to focus on what should be in the Premier's notes and report on what all this action means for us here in the NWT. The question we've always been asking, what's in it for us, has yet to be answered, Mr. Speaker. Meanwhile, on the other side of the ledger -- the social side of the ledger -- we have a litany of crises and shortage that in an era of so much wealth and prosperity, amounts to a legacy of shame in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, we have schools with roofs that collapse and foundations that crumble. Our Housing Corporation tells us that there are 3,000 families in core need of a safe, affordable place to live. We have rates of alcohol and substance abuse that eclipse the national average by five times and more. Mr. Speaker, I should seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To continue on the social side of that ledger, battered and abused women and their children used emergency shelters at a rate eight times the national average in the year 2001-2002, and yet this Legislature is struggling with how to trim our budget by \$20 million in each of the next two years. In the meantime, over those same two years, Ottawa will reap in excess of an estimated \$350 million from our resources. What's wrong with this picture? Are we destined to be only a cash cow for the federal treasury while our people catch only a few crumbs of precious resources as they literally fly out of here at unprecedented rates? Where is the legacy? What's in it for us?

Last week, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech promised a strategy for the North. I'm as encouraged as anyone that Ottawa seems finally to be waking up to our plight, as well as our potential, but it was four years ago that DIAND promised to resolve the devolution issue of resource riches for the NWT and that deal is still a far-off fantasy.

We must temper, Mr. Speaker, whatever optimism we have for that strategy with clear resolve and a strong dose of reality, if we are to help ourselves to gain a share of what is already ours. Achieving devolution must be the single and most urgent priority before this Assembly, for at the rate we are going, the future is ours to lose. As those diamond mines accelerate and that pipeline advances, we don't have a day to lose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The Chair will recognize the Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

#### **Member's Statement On Summer Activities And Issues In Nahendeh**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I would like to begin by saying what a great pleasure it is to be here in the Legislature again. Since this House last sat, it has been a busy time in my riding of Nahendeh. During the course of the summer, I had the

opportunity to visit all the communities in my riding. On two different occasions, it was my honour to be accompanied in the communities by various Ministers of the government: Minister Bell, Minister Krutko, Minister McLeod and Minister Miltenberger. I would like to thank each of the Ministers for taking the time to come to my riding to listen to the people firsthand. I can honestly say that your commitment has generated a great deal of goodwill in my constituency towards the government. People were able to see and hear firsthand your genuine concern for their problems.

Today I would just like to take a little time to identify a few of the issues that are particularly important to the people in my riding. These are issues I will be speaking to during the course of this session of the House.

In the coming days, I will be addressing the need for a school gymnasium in the community of Nahanni Butte. I believe it is a simple matter of fairness and social equality that all NWT residents receive the same basic level of service before we consider increasing and improving services that others already receive.

As always, housing issues remain a priority. Though we have significant problems with housing everywhere, in my riding I believe these problems are not insurmountable. We have much work to do to address the deficiencies in housing, but at the same time we also have good, dedicated people working in the communities who are working hard to solve these problems.

Communities in the Nahendeh riding are also looking at establishing a single regional airline. This will ensure full and meaningful local participation in the airline business as it grows in the years ahead, and they're looking to the government to support them in this venture.

Perhaps the most significant issue we are faced with right now is the proposed construction of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. People in my riding are very concerned about the negative effects it will have on their lives. They are looking for ways to benefit from the project, but also ways to mitigate the impacts it will bring. They will be looking to this government for assistance in helping them to build capacity and to prepare for their future.

Politically, too...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Excuse me, Mr. Menicoche. Your time for your Member's statement has expired.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Politically, too, the First Nations do want to have recognition for using the lands that they have lived on since time immemorial. I will strive to be supportive of these efforts.

In closing, I would once again like to applaud this government for taking the time to visit the communities in my riding, especially the smaller communities. There's no doubt in my mind that community visits such as these on a

regular basis are a valuable exercise in effecting good representative government in the North. I will most certainly be extending more invitations to the Members of Cabinet to visit my riding in the future. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Summer Travel Experiences**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's fall and we're back to work here in the Legislature. Ahead of us, lie many hours of work and meetings indoors. I've always been very fond of the indoors. I've been in the North for 30 years and, unlike many others who call the North home, I've never had much of a penchant for the great outdoors. I don't think I've ever been camping, I hate to admit.

But whether it was sun or rain or wind or cold...

---Laughter

...or bugs, there always seemed a very good reason to stay indoors. I haven't travelled much and I've never been that curious about far away places and I've always been quite content and enjoyed whatever it was that I was doing in Hay River; enough not to bother much with vacations or leisure time. I guess I grew up in a family business where it was considered a virtue to stay home and just mind the store, so to speak.

But this summer I took a trip and I think it has changed me for all time. I discovered something that gave me a whole new perspective on the North, the people and even my job as an elected Member. I discovered what has to be one of the most interesting places on earth, a place that drew explorers and sightseers and adventurers and it was right on my doorstep for the last 30 years. I discovered the mighty Mackenzie River.

My husband and I left Hay River on short notice with just a few supplies and, of course, the satellite phone just in case. We drove to Simpson and then on to Wrigley and launched a jet boat. I had heard a lot about the Mackenzie and the communities along its path; but 10 hours later, we were in Fort Good Hope and it was one of those things we'd always said we'd do, but I never believed we ever would. Unbeknownst to me, people in Hay River were taking bets as to which community I would fly back from, but I loved every minute on the river.

We met so many interesting people and friends along the way in the communities; stopping in Norman Wells, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Wrigley, Simpson and Jean Marie River on our way back. The traffic and activity along the river, the Coast Guard, the tugs, barges, the canoeists, the other jet boats, the fish camps, the rapids, the ramparts and the very important channel markers and buoys were also interesting. How could I have lived in Hay River for 30 years and not know about the Mackenzie River? Was it possible to live in the North and know so little about the connections of the people to each other and to the land? I found something in the visits with the people and the sights and sounds that took me to another place and

another time. I would like to request unanimous consent to continue my statement, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I have a different perspective now when we sit indoors and talk about the communities and the residents that I got to know a little bit better this summer in the course of one short week, and I want to thank everyone who we encountered along the way for their kindness and hospitality. Just to name a very few: the Pellissey family in Wrigley, Fred Andrew and his children in Tulita who we stayed with, and the warm hospitality of Chief Ron Piro and the people of Fort Good Hope. Incidentally, I did run into on this trip, as well, Mr. Bell, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Yakeleya and a few others, actually.

---Laughter

A few other elected leaders who were all working of course. I was the only one on holidays.

---Laughter

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, it was a trip of a lifetime and when I got home I bought the boat and I can't wait. It doesn't look too much like boating weather today with the snow coming down, but I can't wait to get back out on the Mackenzie River next summer and then we'll go right to the Arctic. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Kam Lake To Highway No. 3 Access Road**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to use my Member's statement today to discuss an issue that I spoke about during the March session. That issue is the construction of an access road from Highway No. 3 to the Kam Lake Industrial Park in the city of Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, there were two incidents this past summer where, in the first, a live missile fell off a CF-18 fighter jet onto the Yellowknife golf course and fortunately nobody was killed or injured in that incident. The very next day a CF-18 fighter pilot was forced to eject after his jet skidded off the end of the runway. Both of these incidents caused me a great deal of concern because both incidents closed the highway and, as we all know, Highway No. 3 is the only route out of the city of Yellowknife.

With the airport located where it is and the two events that I have just mentioned, it really is an issue of public safety. We need another route out of the city of Yellowknife. In order for the City of Yellowknife to be able to afford the construction of the access road, it would need to have the ability to sell the lots along the route. This would be the only way the City of Yellowknife could afford to undertake construction of this access road. I do hope that this government is not getting in the way of the City of Yellowknife building this much-needed access road. I

would impress upon the Minister of Transportation to ensure that his department is working with, and not against, the City of Yellowknife to see that this strategic piece of roadwork is constructed in a timely fashion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Driver's Licence Renewal Process**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off, I would like to say welcome back to everyone. Today one of our honourable colleagues had mentioned it's been 132 days since the House last sat, and it's been a lonely summer without being able to work closely with everyone, so I'm glad to see all the smiling faces again. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today is with regard to driver's licence renewal process.

Mr. Speaker, several constituents of mine have brought forward concerns about the dilemma where sometimes, inadvertently, I must stress, they allow their driver's licence to expire beyond the grace period. Mr. Speaker, the NWT driver's licence is designed to be issued for five years. The Department of Transportation, at one time, Mr. Speaker, used to send out notices as reminders to people out there that their licence would expire. As some of you may be or may not be aware, at present to renew your driver's licence it is a cost of \$83.56. However, as I mentioned earlier about the grace period, if you allow your driver's licence to expire beyond that grace period, Mr. Speaker, you must start over the entire, complete process.

So what does that really mean to a regular person? Well, Mr. Speaker, that means you have to go out and take your learner's licence again. You have to do your driver's road test again just in order to qualify once again for your class 5 driver's licence, but at that point -- this is the real catcher here, Mr. Speaker -- is instead of \$83.56 you are now paying \$166.32, Mr. Speaker. So I think that's quite shameful that the cost basically doubles because you have forgotten to renew your licence.

Mr. Speaker, we have to be reminded that people rely on their driver's licence and acknowledge that a driver's licence truly is a privilege to have. Mr. Speaker, some people need their cars to drive their kids to school, people need to drive their cars so that they can go get their groceries, and let's not forget those people who drive for a living. I bet our most honourable Premier had to drive to work today because he doesn't live within walking distance from Prelude. So we have to recognize driving may be a privilege yet it is a necessity, especially here in the North.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** I support that.

---Laughter

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, the point I'm getting now to is the fact that a person who had their driver's licence expire beyond the grace period had to wait a month before they could retake their exam. Mr. Speaker, may I

seek unanimous consent to finish my Member's statement? Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues, for allowing me to finish my statement. Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, the point that I'm making is that once your driver's licence expires you have to start the process from start to finish again, which could take up to a month and that's happened to some constituents of mine.

Mr. Speaker, I presently hold a class 4 driver's licence which requires an updated medical every five years. Unbeknownst to me, I got a letter from the Department of Transportation as a reminder that I had to submit a current medical in order to keep my class 4 driver's licence current. So the Department of Transportation has the ability to let folks know that their licence is expiring. Later this afternoon, I am going to send questions to the Department of Transportation, our honourable Minister Michael McLeod, in regard to fixing this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

#### **Member's Statement On Changes And Opportunities In The Political And Social Landscape**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Let me just start off by sending my greetings out to my constituents in Tu Nedhe. Let me say it's nice to be back in the House and I look forward to working on some of the many issues and concerns that have been brought to my attention by my constituents, residents of the NWT and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues are well aware the political landscape of Canada has gone through some significant changes over the past few months and, thanks to the diligent and persistent work of our leadership, we as northerners have an enormous opportunity to make great achievements economically, socially and politically. But we must remember, Mr. Speaker, that these opportunities do not come about without some sacrifice by our people. The sacrifices I am talking about are those dealing with the health, social and cultural well-being of all of our residents from all areas of the human spectrum: from infants to the elderly, educated and uneducated, employed and unemployed, aboriginal and non-aboriginal. We are all affected by any profound changes in our political and social environment, but change is usually good and a step towards making positive changes is what this government is working on. Mr. Speaker, many of these new challenges on change will assist us as government representatives accomplish some of the goals and aspirations this government has set out in the strategic plan released in June 2004.

Mr. Speaker, more sacrifices are what we will have to bear in order to make some of these goals in the strategic plan a reality. I believe this government will have to look within and make sacrifices from within in order to achieve some of the goals such as becoming self-reliant peoples

and communities. The people of the Northwest Territories have already made too many sacrifices on their own in the past in order to bring us to where we are today. I respect them for all of what they have offered and contributed to the betterment of our land and our people.

I feel now that it is time that we, as a government, challenge ourselves to make more positive changes in areas of accessibility, accountability and attitude, accessibility and accountability to our citizens in addressing issues and delivery of programs so that they are addressed and worked out in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, and in the attitude of our public service so that these positive changes can be realized at the grassroots where many residents have become too complacent about what the role and responsibilities are...

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

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** I seek unanimous consent from the Members to continue my statement.

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

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you. ...so that these positive changes can be realized at the grassroots where many residents have become too complacent about what the role and responsibilities are of this government and why the system of program delivery has grown quite cumbersome and confusing in some areas, resulting in a loss of trust by residents in our system of government.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I and my colleagues will make this a priority during this 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly; to make these and other positive changes happen so that we can all benefit in the long term. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The Chair will recognize the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

#### **Member's Statement On Relocating Family To Yellowknife**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since becoming a Member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, we have led very busy lives and have had to make some very difficult decisions. This summer, I had to make a difficult decision as well, a personal one that included my family, in a sense that we have decided or, as my children would look at it, I had decided that it was best that my family be close to me. So we made the journey this summer leaving Inuvik via truck driving the Dempster Highway and relocating here in Yellowknife. I am here in Yellowknife for the purpose of the work that I have been given, the responsibilities I am here to fulfill.

I just want to let the constituents of Inuvik and Inuvik Boot Lake know that even though I am here in physical form and body, my heart is still back in Inuvik and my commitment is still to the people of Inuvik Boot Lake, and the work I have done on behalf of them I will continue to do. But I have to accept, and my family as well, that it is important that our families remain close. I felt that it was

best that my children got to see more of their father on a daily basis rather than hearing them over the phone or watching them on the television. One thing I learned from my father is that you need daily input and guidance to turn out to be a productive and healthy person of our community. So just to the people of Inuvik and Inuvik Boot Lake, I have relocated. Many people I have been talking to I informed them of my plans to do that. The move went well. My children are in school and still missing home, as we call it. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

#### **Member's Statement On Representing The Tlicho Region**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is good to see you and our colleagues here again. As others have said, Mr. Speaker, we do have a lot of work in front of us during this 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure my constituents and this House that I will be working diligently for them from this side of the House to keep our government accountable and to make sure they are fiscally responsible without cutting our core programs and services that are important to the Tlicho people and our communities across the Northwest Territories.

There are many important issues for the Tlicho region, and I want to make sure that our government is considering them in preparing its next budget and in setting the legislative agenda. First and foremost, Mr. Speaker, is our Tlicho agreement. As the Premier indicated today, one piece of legislation remains to be passed by this Assembly in order to implement our agreement. I look forward to seeing it in the very near future. Then we will be ready to implement as soon as the federal legislation gets through Parliament.

Tlicho communities are very concerned about aging community infrastructure, especially infrastructures that are tied to public health and safety, such as firefighting equipment and facilities, community roads and water and sewer services. The government's capital plan needs to reflect this. Lack of adequate and affordable housing for elders, families and single people is also a major problem affecting Tlicho residents and the North. I will be looking for this government to ensure that they make investments in this area to address this particular situation. Youth and elder programs, winter roads and health care are also priorities for the Tlicho region. I will be working and looking forward to seeing that also in the next budget. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I look forward in questioning the government about these and other issues during this session. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Item 3, Members' statements. Before I leave Members' statements, I would just like to draw attention to the Members of the rules governing Members' statements. They are to be two-and-one-half minutes in length. When requesting unanimous consent to conclude, we would appreciate that Members use that time to conclude their statement, rather than going into a lengthy Members' statement from then on.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Barb Hood, the executive director of the NWT Seniors' Society, a frequent visitor to the gallery. I would like to welcome her again. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Senator Nick Sibbeston. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize in the gallery my father, David Roland, the man I look to for guidance and direction, and thank him for all of his training.

---Applause

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you. I would like to recognize my neighbour and fellow Hay River North resident, Mr. Gordon Norberg.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of people to recognize. First, one of my most feisty seniors in Yellowknife Centre, I could call him the honourable Ed Jeske.

---Applause

I also would like to recognize two others: Lydia Bardak and Nancy Galway. Nancy is the coordinator of the programs for the John Howard Society. She is leaving the North to return to Labrador as a social worker. Ms. Bardak is taking over part of the transition of the John Howard Society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wonderful wife, Lucille Pokiak. She came down to support me. Thanks a lot. It is good to see David Roland. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is always a pleasure to recognize Mr. Tony Whitford, former Speaker of this House and a constituent of mine. Welcome.

---Applause

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to have with me today in the gallery my three children, Keone, Diedra, and Candace. I would also like to recognize two former residents of Fort Simpson: Terry and Anita Villeneuve. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize two of my staunch supporters from Tu Nedhe. They are my mom, Terry Villeneuve; my sister Anita; and I believe my dad is outside for a smoke break.

---Laughter

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a constituent of mine, Mr. Gordon Norberg, and also my executive assistant, Ms. Sue Tkachuk, in the gallery.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 205-13(5): Calculating Retroactive Pay For Employees

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, further to my Member's statement earlier today, my question goes to the Minister responsible for FMBS, the Honourable Floyd Roland. Could the Minister tell this House what measures he's taken to accommodate the extra work that's been necessary to go through the files of all the correctional officers and the extra files that would have gone to that office from the health care professionals who have had their jobs re-evaluated over the last few months? I would like to know what extra measures he's taken as the Minister to accommodate this task. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Roland.

##### Return To Question 205-15(3): Calculating Retroactive Pay For Employees

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Ms. Lee's Member's statement, she hit all the points that are very accurate in the fact that we have a very heavy workload for the individuals in the payroll office. As the Premier stated earlier, as a government, we've decided to live within our means and tried to do what we can with what is available. Unfortunately, on this



side of the equation, we are not considered frontline workers, so when the government looks at reduction scenarios, it's that end of the boat that ends up taking a fair bit of the brunt of any reduction scenarios of past governments. We haven't added any new positions.

Over the past summer, unfortunately we had a number of months -- approximately four months -- where we were understaffed in that area and trying to complete the workload. We are back on track. It is still taking some time, as the Member noted, and we are continuing to work with the staff and trying to get back up to speed with that. I would like to point out that there are a total of 39 retroactive payments on the Justice side. We have 13 remaining and hopefully those will be concluded by mid-December.

On the health care side, there were 226 retroactive payments. Hopefully by the end of November, we will be concluded; there are about 12 left of those. So we have been doing our job, as slow as it has been -- and we have to apologize for that -- but we just don't have all the resources to put extra staff in place. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Your first supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I suppose in my statement I laid out the problem and the answers. The reason I did that is for regular people with common sense, it's really hard to believe that a government that runs a billion dollar budget, that were given the money to pay for these retroactive payments, that they could not find any resources within to accommodate this extra task and to say that it was a budget-cutting measure or that it's a lack of money. That doesn't make any sense at all. Maybe it speaks to a lack of an efficient computer system. What kind of payroll system do we have? We have millions of dollars going through the payroll system, and a person has to actually go file by file, page by page, to look at all the hours of work. This really speaks to a non-functioning system.

Mr. Speaker, in my private conversations with him, I have asked...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ms. Lee, do you have a question?

**Supplementary To Question 205-13(5): Calculating Retroactive Pay For Employees**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is one I asked before to the Minister and one that he said he would consider. He said he would consider giving interest for the money that he's been keeping that belongs rightly to these people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 205-15(3): Calculating Retroactive Pay For Employees**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First let me say, for the record, I have not been keeping money from the employees myself. We have been working to try to correct the situation. Mr. Speaker, an example of what has to be done on a lot of occasions, especially on the Justice side, because there are so many shift changes, acting appointments and so on, that in one employee's case, there could be 200 transactions that have to be

looked at and adjustments made going back to the point of the change. One case could take 200 different transactions to come up with the final number that needs to be paid out. On the specific question of the interest, we have looked at that and the Financial Administration Manual does not allow for us to pay interest, so we have not gone in that direction. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 205-15(3): Calculating Retroactive Pay For Employees**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask why this cannot be done? We have over 2,000 or 3,000 employees and we have a computer system. This is the year 2004. We have approved a lot of money for computer systems. Why does this have to be gone through manually? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 205-15(3): Calculating Retroactive Pay For Employees**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been upgrading our computer systems and we continue to do so. One of the problems we find is we are still pulling back departments into an area where we can use the same platforms, as they say, in the computer world and have systems talk to each other. Still, the fact remains that even though it's in the system, when a retroactive agreement is reached we have to go back in the file. Depending on the timeline that's involved and how many changes the position has taken, whether it's acting, a new pay level or up to a new pay range, there are many factors that have to go into it such as overtime, acting pay and casual pay. We have to look at all those things and make those adjustments to the point of the date the agreement was reached. We have been doing our work. It's been slow. We have been understaffed over the summer. My understanding is we are back up to staffing levels. We had to hire more people and we've done that, but that is within the existing arrangements we've had and resources we had. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 205-15(3): Calculating Retroactive Pay For Employees**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that there was a total of 30-some employees who were entitled to retroactive pay. My information is that there were 52 correctional officers, but no matter what number you look at, it's really quite unbelievable that it takes a whole year to go through 52 files. I want the Minister to answer the question that he hasn't answered yet, and that is whether or not he will pay the interest for those who haven't gotten the money for a whole entire year by the end of December. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 205-15(3): Calculating Retroactive Pay For Employees**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I did answer that. When the Member

asked this of me, I did commit to looking into it. We have looked into it and under the Financial Administration Manual, section 803-4(3.1), there is no provision for interest to be accrued and paid out. Thank you.

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

**Question 206-15(3): Driver's Licence Renewal Process**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister of Transportation, following up on my earlier Member's statement with regard to people under hardship and duress due to the lengthy process about getting renewals for drivers' licences. Would the Minister be willing to reconsider implementing the notices for renewal for peoples' drivers' licences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 206-15(3): Driver's Licence Renewal Process**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last session Mr. Hawkins raised concern around the security of the driver's licence and I'm happy to say that in the last while, we've had a lot of discussion with the national organizations regarding the security of drivers' licences and how we can move forward with incorporating a licence that would be used across different jurisdictions. We are anticipating doing that over this coming year. At that time, we certainly looked at a number of different things: the cost it would take to incorporate this into our system, the equipment that we'd need here in the Territories. So while we are doing that I would gladly direct our staff to take a look at providing notices once again if that's something that is feasible for us or something that we can accommodate. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 206-15(3): Driver's Licence Renewal Process**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a warm feeling that the Minister wishes to be so accommodating by looking into that, so I would thank him. Mr. Speaker, recognizing the difficult hardship and the fact that some of my constituents, as well as constituents of all of us, have to take sometimes up to a month to get renewal if they happen to forget to renew their licence in the proper time, would the Minister be able to give me his firm assurance today he will direct his department to put people ahead who have to go through the full process again and receive ultimate priority in getting their licensing back because of the disruption to their life? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 206-15(3): Driver's Licence Renewal Process**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we would be happy to work with the people that have to renew their licences. We have to recognize we only have so much we

can do in terms of accepting and moving people forward. There has to be some responsibility taken by the people who have a driver's licence and the people that have to renew them. So there is a very clear process on how and when you should renew your licence and people have to take responsibility. However, we can try to accommodate as we usually do with people that have to go through the process. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 206-15(3): Driver's Licence Renewal Process**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister could elaborate on possibly trying to accommodate, recognizing that there are single parents out there who still have to deliver children to school and pick up groceries. As I pointed out earlier, we still have people out there who do drive for a living. So maybe if the Minister could let me know on how he plans to look into this problem by trying to accommodate as I have mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 206-15(3): Driver's Licence Renewal Process**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not making any commitment for special accommodations here. We have a process and if we can in any way be more accommodating with those recommendations by the Member, we would certainly be willing to make that, but we are not looking at incorporating anything special for people that forgot to renew their licence at this point. Thank you.

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

**Question 207-15(3): Federal Parolees In The NWT**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the very unfortunate and tragic events surrounding the Canada Corrections parole officer who lost her life here in Yellowknife last week, a lot of people in the public have raised questions now with respect to the federal parolees who are at large and living in our communities here in the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice what kind of communications take place between federal Corrections Canada and our government, the Department of Justice, with respect to parolees, inmates who have been released who are back and integrated into the communities in the North? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Minister of Justice, the Honourable Mr. Dent.

**Return To Question 207-15(3): Federal Parolees In The NWT**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it depends a lot on the parolee. Because of an Exchange of Services Agreement with Justice Canada, in most communities outside of Yellowknife we provide supervision services. So there may be, at any given time,

a number of federal parolees who are being supervised by NWT parole officers. In those circumstances, we will have worked closely with national parole to know who they are, what their terms of release are and work with them closely on the supervision. In those instances in Yellowknife where the parolee is under the supervision of a Corrections Canada person, there is not a direct notification for us that somebody has been released to parole. The decision as to whether or not to issue a public information disclosure, for instance, would be made by the RCMP and the request for that would be made by Corrections Canada personnel if they felt there was reason to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Your first supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 207-15(3): Federal Parolees In The NWT**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is not the first instance of this type. Just a couple of weeks ago in the newspaper, it was determined the information was released that a Hay River child was in fact murdered by another parolee who had done federal time for murder previously. This is a small jurisdiction. Now there are two incidents within one year. Does the Minister see a way in which things could be improved in terms of communication? The court case would seem to indicate in one instance that the judge felt that there was a dangerous offender. Is there not a registry or some way that the public can be informed of this, or the RCMP even can be informed of it so they know the whereabouts of these folks and the fact that they do have this kind of a history and a record? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 207-15(3): Federal Parolees In The NWT**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with the Member that the two incidents about which she speaks are indeed tragedies and we'd like to make sure that I extend the government's and I think all Members of this House condolences to the families of those who were involved. Particularly, both incidents were quite disturbing. In terms of notification, the RCMP are notified when an offender is released on parole. So they would have been aware in this instance of the release of the offender on parole, and the RCMP has the jurisdiction to determine whether or not a public information disclosure is made. Those are made on the request of staff from either Corrections Canada or Justice, depending on who was involved in overseeing the situation.

In some cases a personal information disclosure is made, in others it isn't, but it's made according to a decision that it taken by a committee of people who are involved in reviewing the circumstances around a person's release back into society. So the notification takes place to the RCMP and the decision is then up to the RCMP as to whether a personal information disclosure should be made or a public information disclosure should be made to inform the public that somebody has been released. As I understand it, the decision is made based on an assessment of a person's likelihood to re-offend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 207-15(3): Federal Parolees In The NWT**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I have for the Minister then is will the GNWT Department of Justice be involved in an examination of the procedures and protocols surrounding the work of parole and probation officers in the Northwest Territories? We also have probation officers who work in a number of our communities. Will the issues around protocol and the safety of these officers be visited and revisited after the results of this investigation? Will you participate in this investigation of this incident as a government and will you revisit the protocols that are used by our probation officers that are employed by the GNWT? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. There may have been two questions there. Mr. Dent, you may respond to one or both. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 207-15(3): Federal Parolees In The NWT**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we're invited by Corrections Canada to participate formally we would be happy to do that. I believe that we have had one member of our staff from Justice who has been approached about serving on the committee. So whether it's formal or informal I know that we will have some way of knowing what the outcome of the investigation is. I can assure the Member that our policies and procedures and the safety of GNWT staff is something that is of paramount concern, and an incident like this would, of course, cause us to review our policies and procedures.

I should have informed the House that we had instituted some time ago a policy whereby no member, whether male or female, of our parole staff would make a home visit unescorted. So our staff are required to visit either in pairs or with the assistance of an RCMP officer when they make home visits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Your final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 6, oral questions. The Chair will recognize the honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Question 208-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**MR. BRADEN:** Merci, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Premier and it's a follow-up to my statement regarding the status of devolution talks for the resources of the Northwest Territories. Last week, Mr. Speaker, the Premier was quoted in northern media as saying -- and this was in response to the announcement of a pipeline regulatory filing -- "The pipeline won't come at the expense of our children's future. We don't want to see northerners not getting a fair share." I applaud the Premier's statement and his statement of his vision which I share.

My question for the Premier, Mr. Speaker, is what measures will this government be taking to ensure that the Premier's vision actually becomes reality? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 208-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like many northerners, I have a concern that the bulk of our wealth and future wealth is in the non-renewable resource sector. While we do have, certainly, many other opportunities in tourism and so on that are renewable, the big piece is non-renewable; diamonds and oil and gas being the big ones.

Mr. Speaker, we have been looking at this. Mr. Roland, the Finance Minister, and I have been talking with the federal government and with aboriginal governments. I wrote to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, last summer and suggested to him that we have an interim resource revenue sharing arrangement put in place so we begin to have some of that revenue stay in the North sooner. I talked to the Prime Minister when he was in Inuvik in August. I talked to the Prime Minister about it when I met with him in September. I have written to the aboriginal leaders. I have talked with them on a conference call about the idea of interim resource revenue sharing and there was going to be a meeting with the Aboriginal Summit leaders this week, but unfortunately it had to be cancelled because some of the members just were not going to be able to make it. I intend to follow up with this at a meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> with Ministers McLellan, Goodale, Blondin-Andrew, Scott and, I believe Minister Efford may also be there, too.

But we need to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that our resources are not mined out of the Territories and that we do not have in place some sort of agreement that ensures that that money is here to be reinvested for future generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 208-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Premier for the answer, but there's really not much substance to this. We have had discussions and talks going on, we have meetings arranged and some of them are yet to come, some of them are cancelled. Where is the process? Where is the mechanism by which we're going to see devolution achieved? I would refer to the process that the federal government engaged in over the last four years and spent considerable money -- in the millions -- to help lift this process off the ground. But I don't hear from the Premier that there's actually anything happening right now other than more talk. Is that the case? Is there actually something engaged right now?

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

**Further Return To Question 208-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Devolution discussions have certainly been a major topic of discussion among all aboriginal leaders. Most of the leaders, I must say, Mr. Speaker, are on side, but there are some situations where the grand chiefs, the leaders in

the regions are still negotiating their land claim or other aboriginal processes, and they have said slow down devolution until we get our processes out of the way first at the regional level. I continue to promote moving ahead speedily with devolution, but on the condition that we also have a resource revenue sharing arrangement that is parallel with it. We don't want to take on responsibilities without the money that comes with it. We need to have an opportunity to have a fair share.

So that process is ongoing. It was commenced in 2002 in a very aggressive way. I am still optimistic we will continue on track. I hope we have an agreement-in-principle before the end of 2004, but in the meantime I am also preparing to move ahead on an interim resource revenue sharing process because I am not 100 percent confident that we're moving fast enough on devolution. In case it starts to fall off the tracks or get slowed down, I want to have the interim process in place, because once we sign an AIP there might be a long time before we ever can agree on a final agreement.

But, Mr. Speaker, yes, there is a process taking place. Negotiations are ongoing. The next negotiating session will happen on October 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> here in Yellowknife. So that one is moving, but I must say, Mr. Speaker, not as fast as I would like to see it moving. So in the interim, I am also talking with the federal Ministers and the Prime Minister on an interim arrangement that would kick in giving us some resource revenues as early as after signing an AIP. I believe most aboriginal leaders have thought about it and are generally on side with the concept. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 208-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**MR. BRADEN:** So, Mr. Speaker, you know, northern leaders are very familiar and supportive and on side with aboriginal governments to do whatever can be done to help them achieve land claims and self-government. But you know, where we definitely seem to be at odds, as the Premier has said, is that some leaders are saying to slow down on devolution until we get land claims achieved. But you know, I don't hear the mines slowing their production down. I don't know if the pipeline and the oil and gas guys are slowing their production down.

The resources are leaving the Northwest Territories. They will not be renewed. How are we going to overcome this really severe bottleneck at the governance level, the top levels of governance in the Northwest Territories, so that we can achieve a devolution deal? I'm not convinced in what I hear from the Premier so far that we really have a process that has a solid mandate. We're still discussing the shape of the table, if you will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 208-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, negotiations of devolution is a very complex process. It is one that has been going on for 17 or 18 years. In 2002, we attempted to speed up the process in the last government. I am still hoping that we can move that along quickly. It is a very

complicated one, particularly for aboriginal people because it is not just dealing with an administrative arrangement and how we deliver programs, but it is dealing with rights that they have to work their way through. It is moving, but it is not moving as quickly as I like.

I agree with the honourable Member that there are resources going out of this territory. They are not slowing down. They are speeding up in fact, Mr. Speaker. We need to have something quicker in the interim in place. I have gone to the highest authority I can: the Prime Minister. I have made this case with him and with his senior Ministers. They are listening to what we are saying. I am meeting with the Ministers on October 26<sup>th</sup> and trying to get an interim process that would come into place quickly. I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that an agreement five or six years from now will be after, in some cases, two-thirds of a mine's life is already gone. This is as much as I can say at this point, Mr. Speaker. We have a process in place. I am meeting with both aboriginal leaders and the federal Ministers on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 208-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Premier. My final question is if we have a discussion and negotiation process underway, then does our government have a mandate that is brought to this negotiation? Would the Premier be able to release that mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 208-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, yes, we have a mandate that we have given to our negotiators, and yes, I certainly would be willing to make that available. Thank you.

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

**Question 209-15(3): Improvements At The Yellowknife Airport**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Michael McLeod. We talk of an open, honest and transparent government. Time and time again, Cabinet makes multi-million dollar decisions. I can't be specific today, but the question I have is when will the public know what is happening in terms of improvement at the Yellowknife Airport? When will we have a chance to publicly debate those improvements and what is happening out there? This gets back to my question about the access road and future airport expansion, perhaps, out to that area delaying the City of Yellowknife having access to that land to build a road. I am wondering if perhaps the Minister could let me know when we will be able to have a public debate about that subject. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 209-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our airport development plan is in the completion stage. We are right now doing some reviews on the whole package. We will have that available for the Members. We have offered it to the members of the GED committee as soon as it is ready. We will provide that in writing. We can have that discussion at that time with that presentation and also with other issues that the Members have agreed to.

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

**Supplementary To Question 209-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just wondering, through you to the Minister, when was the decision made by Cabinet to go ahead with the improvements at the Yellowknife Airport. You don't have to be a rocket scientist, Mr. Speaker, to go out to the airport and see that money is being spent on such things as apron improvements and parking lot improvements. This costs money. When was that decision made, and when were Regular Members allowed to debate what is happening at the Yellowknife Airport in terms of capital expenditures? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 209-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the improvements were made as a result of the CATSA security requirements. It has gone to Cabinet. It is in the supp and there will be opportunities to discuss that at that time. Thank you. It is coming.

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

**Supplementary To Question 209-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate the time constraints that the Minister and Cabinet might find themselves up against, but what I find hard to believe is they can make decisions like that without any input from a Regular Member or from the public, for that matter. There has been no public disclosure on what is happening out there. Unless you really work at the airport and see what is going on out there, the general public has no idea what amount of money is being spent out at the Yellowknife Airport, what the long-term plan is, or anything to that effect. I think that should not be allowed to happen. I don't know if the Minister can elaborate further on how much money it is going to cost and the life expectancy of the expenditures, but that is something I think the public has a right to know. This government is spending millions of dollars on a facility that might not be in its current location for much longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Further Return To Question 209-15(3): Status Of Devolution Negotiations

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is quite right. There has been a fairly short notice in terms of the airport development that is currently taking place. Our intention was to have a full study completed, an airport development package ready for presentation for down the road, several years before we had any improvements made to the airport facility here in Yellowknife. However, because of the 9-11 incident, many measures were brought forward including baggage handling and security in that area, which has forced us to accelerate the development of the facility in terms of providing actual security for baggage screening, and with that we are planning to do some improvements to reduce congestion and allow for a longer life of this airport. This current contract, this whole development plan that we are bringing forward, has been presented to the members of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development. We continue to have further discussions on it as required. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

### Question 210-15(3): Gathering Of Dene Elders And Youth

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier in my Member's statement, I talked about the historical event or gathering of the Dene elders and youth at the Tsuu T'ina Reserve outside of Calgary. It has been prophesied and told by elders how people at one time separated and how there will be a time when we come together as one people, as Dene people. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question to the Premier. He noted that earlier he received a letter seeking some support for an elders' gathering outside of Calgary. Also, letters went to the MLAs of the Dene ancestry. I want to ask the Premier if he would agree to sponsor the Dene at the international youth gathering outside of Calgary as requested by the letter that was sent on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

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

### Return To Question 210-15(3): Gathering Of Dene Elders And Youth

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there is hardly a week that goes by that we are not asked as a government to sponsor something outside of the Territories. I am sure that there is hardly a day that goes by that we are not asked to help out with an event in the Northwest Territories. We certainly give priority to events in the Northwest Territories. When it comes to events outside of the Territories, we look very carefully at them. Mr. Speaker, I only received a couple of weeks ago just a very brief letter from the people organizing this event, which I have no doubt is very important to them, but there is not enough detail to be able to respond quickly to it. I have passed that on to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. At this point, based on the information that arrived to me, I have difficulty supporting this kind of general request for an event down in Calgary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Supplementary To Question 210-15(3): Gathering Of Dene Elders And Youth

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I heard many times the Premier speaking about the values of having a united voice about issues concerning the North, given that a substantial portion of the North is of Dene ancestry and this gathering is a Dene gathering of all the people of North America and requires some support from this government. Also, the Premier indicated that the financial restraints make it difficult for the Premier to commit. Would the Minister commit to looking at supporting the 2006 International Dene Gathering? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Further Return To Question 210-15(3): Gathering Of Dene Elders And Youth

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, certainly, I would consider the one in 2006 where we have some notice. We have some time to answer questions and see what the agenda is, who is participating, who else is contributing funding. That kind of thing I would certainly look very carefully at. When we get these last minute ones, it is very difficult for us to justify spending the money. I would really appreciate information quickly on the 2006 proposed event. Thank you.

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

### Supplementary To Question 210-15(3): Gathering Of Dene Elders And Youth

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Dene people throughout the Northwest Territories, I thank the Premier for supporting this at this time. Would the Premier commit to supporting the second phases as soon as we get the information to his office to start circulating it amongst the Dene governments? Thank you.

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

### Further Return To Question 210-15(3): Gathering Of Dene Elders And Youth

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to see the information and what the expected results would be, what the dollars are before I commit. I certainly encourage Members who have information on the second phase to get that information to us and I will look at it with my department. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

### Supplementary To Question 210-15(3): Gathering Of Dene Elders And Youth

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the elders have given us their guidance and wisdom in our path in life and what we choose to do. I would ask the Premier if he would reconsider in terms of offering some support to this international gathering for this year. I know they have asked for a specific amount, but I am not sure what the exact amount is, but I think it would be good to have some signal from this government to offer some

support to the elders who are gathering down in Calgary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 210-15(3): Gathering Of Dene Elders And Youth**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would need more information because what I have received so far is just information that Dene elders from across North America and youth and others are gathering on a reserve outside of Calgary and asking us for \$15,000, I believe it was, to send some drummers to this event. I don't know anything about the event. I just need more information, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 211-15(3): Court Worker Position In Fort Simpson**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Justice. In my riding in the community of Fort Simpson, it was brought to my attention that the court worker position has not been filled for quite some time and what they typically would do is they would bring in another member from a community like Hay River. Recently, they haven't even been doing that, so my question to the Minister of Justice is when will they be looking at filling the court worker position in Fort Simpson to address the justice needs of Fort Simpson?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister of Justice, the Honourable Charles Dent.

**Return To Question 211-15(3): Court Worker Position In Fort Simpson**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know. I will have to take the question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Minister is taking the question as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Question 212-15(3): Incentive For Devolution Negotiations**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier, in follow-up to Mr. Braden's questions with respect to comments that the Premier recently made that were attributed to him in the media. I will just paraphrase; it was to the effect that without a resource revenue sharing agreement with Ottawa, the pipeline would not go ahead. I have to tell you I was somewhat surprised to read that, given some of our previous discussions, but I was pleased because I made it very clear in other communications with the Premier that I believe that for us to proceed without our rightful share of the royalties from our non-renewable resources is not a good deal for the Northwest Territories. Having said that, I also want to clarify that I am not against the pipeline. I am pro-development, but not at any cost and without the kinds of benefits in place for northerners that need to be in place before we proceed. Mr. Braden raised a good point when he said the diamonds are going out, the gas and oil activity is marching on and what incentive does the federal

government have to come to the table to have the royalties discussion with us. What do we have at our disposal to bring them to that discussion? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 212-15(3): Incentive For Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, while it's true that the federal government can probably just go ahead and permit the building of the Mackenzie pipeline in spite of concerns, objectives or issues that are raised in the North, they can expropriate land and do what they feel is in the national interest. That is not the way the federal government wants to do this. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Minister Anne McLellan has been given the lead on this one. She is to work out a way to have the pipeline move ahead with the support of northerners. So what does the federal government want? They want our support as northerners. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the Prime Minister very much recognizes the importance of the North, and the Northwest Territories in particular, to all Canadians. He wants to see that pipeline go ahead. He does not, from his words to me, want to see it go over in spite of objectives from us. The only thing we have is our support. The federal government could license it and just run right over us if they wanted to, but I don't believe it will go that way.

I am also, Mr. Speaker, very much in support of the pipeline, but the same as Mrs. Groenewegen, I am not in support of it at any cost. There has to be a benefit to us. It's our future. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 212-15(3): Incentive For Devolution Negotiations**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Premier for that as well. I guess I am just not as optimistic as he is, given the federal government is holding all the cards on this. I just can't think of a reason why they would want to be nice to us. It sounds like it could proceed over our objectives anyway. I know you said they don't want to, but the fact is it could. So I think we need to assure northerners how far we are prepared to go to protect the interest of the Northwest Territories in this scenario.

The Premier referred to an interim agreement on resource revenue sharing and also the fact that there was supposed to be a meeting of the Aboriginal Summit this week, but it couldn't take place. Does the Premier then have a clear mandate from our aboriginal partners, our leaders, our grand chiefs, chiefs, to proceed to negotiate an interim agreement with the federal government? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 212-15(3): Incentive For Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I don't yet have what I would consider to be a clear mandate from all the

aboriginal leaders to negotiate a final interim resource revenue sharing agreement. I do have the majority of aboriginal leaders onside with the concept. They were going to get together for two days this week to work out more of the detail and I was going to meet with them on Thursday evening, myself and Minister Roland. I understand that that meeting now is postponed probably until next week.

Mr. Speaker, I want to work in partnership with the aboriginal leaders in pursuing this. I don't want to just have our government go ahead and sort of bowl over the aboriginal leaders, any more than we want the federal government to do that to us. So I want to work with them, I want to move this quickly, I am keeping the aboriginal leaders informed of everything that I am doing and hopefully we will continue to have their support because I think we all, in principle, agree with the need to have more revenues stay here. We don't want to have to wait five years for that to happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Supplementary To Question 212-15(3): Incentive For Devolution Negotiations**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier is absolutely right, we do not want to wait five years. There is no sense in closing the barn door after the horses are already out and I am just afraid that there is a stampede in a certain direction here. I am not consoled or assured that we are going to capture the benefits from the resources for our people and, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier if he could commit to this House and to the public that getting this agreement in place as soon as possible is his number one priority as the Premier of this government; that in fact other things of lesser importance could be set aside so that he could focus his attention, I would almost go as far as to say exclusively, on getting this deal done. It is of paramount importance. Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return To Question 212-15(3): Incentive For Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I agree with Mrs. Groenewegen that this is of paramount importance. I can assure you that it is the number one thing that I wake up thinking about in the morning and that I go to bed thinking about when I go to sleep. It is very critical for us that we have the pipeline. First of all, we have got to have the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. If we diddle around and the Alaska pipeline goes first, we will all have nothing in terms of resource revenue from that.

So we need to negotiate with the federal government an arrangement that doesn't see the roughly \$23.7 billion of government revenues all flow or largely flow to the federal government and the other provinces who supply material. Mr. Speaker, out of every dollar that is spent or that is received in government revenue, in a study that was done for us by Wright Mansell consultants in this business, shows that we get roughly four cents on the dollar right now to keep in the North. That is not a fair deal and, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that this is the most important thing on my agenda. While I have lots of other things to do, I

will continue to see that this one receives priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Supplementary To Question 212-15(3): Incentive For Devolution Negotiations**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear that commitment and I hope the people of the Northwest Territories are listening to that because the Premier says that we need the pipeline, and we do need the pipeline, but we do not need it under the current regime of the agreements that we have with Ottawa at this time. Is the Premier prepared to talk tough? At one time, before the application was filed, I was hearing from some people that it's a sensitive time, we don't want to scare them away. But this pipeline is going to do nothing but cost us money if we do not have our rightful share of the resources and royalties from it and the benefits from it. It's going to cost us money, there is no sense in bragging about a pipeline if it's going to put us into debt and put us into the hole and have a negative impact on our people. So I just want to ask the Premier, is he prepared...Don't be worried about offending the producers and offending industry. Is he willing to talk tough on our behalf on this particular subject? Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return To Question 212-15(3): Incentive For Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I can assure this House that I will talk tough on it, the Finance Minister will talk tough on it, and our government will talk tough at the same time. We are not ones to issue hollow threats. We will negotiate, we will negotiate strongly, but if it comes down to it, then we have to be tough with the federal government if it goes there.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that the Prime Minister's eyes are very much on the North. He has talked about working with us on a vision for the North, on developing a northern strategy. So I like the signals I hear coming, and I am sure that we can be tough and be good negotiators who come up with a deal that everybody can be happy with and is not going to jeopardize the pipeline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 213-15(3): Implementation Of Vision For The Arts Strategy**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier, the Honourable Joseph Handley. My question is with regards to where the implementation strategy is for the vision for the arts. During the business plan, the Department of RWED, as well as the Department of Education, had requested our support for these projects. So without giving us details, I am asking the Premier where the implementation of the vision for the arts strategy is. Thank you.



**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The questions are relating to issues that came up in the business plan reviews, so the Minister is not responsible to go into any detail on that, but Mr. Handley did you want to respond? Mr. Premier.

**Return To Question 213-15(3): Implementation Of Vision For The Arts Strategy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly don't want to get into discussing what's in the business plan, but I can say that the standing committee has asked for a briefing on it before we release any information and we have, I think the Ministers responsible, Mr. Dent and Mr. Bell, have asked for some time. So we will work with the standing committee first. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 213-15(3): Implementation Of Vision For The Arts Strategy**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it was not my intention to go into the details of what was discussed during the business plan, however, we have been asked to support a plan that they have promised to deliver and the Department of RWED had promised to deliver this summer. The Department of Education has been responding and that's why I am directing my question to the Premier rather than trying to nail down two Ministers by them pointing at each other. So, therefore, I reaffirm to the Premier – it's almost like a double jeopardy here – I reaffirm to the Premier, when will this art strategy be released to the public and to Members so we all know what's happening? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 213-15(3): Implementation Of Vision For The Arts Strategy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, all I will say is that the standing committee, AOC, has asked for a briefing on this strategy before we release it and we are waiting for AOC to give us a date and a time for that briefing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Written Question 31-15(3): Costs Related To The Taltson And Bear River Hydro Projects**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with a question for the Premier, the Honourable Joseph Handley.

Mr. Speaker, what is the total cost to date that the GNWT has invested: in studying environmental impacts, feasibility, or costs; analysis development of any business plans; contributions to other parties involved; or, finally, by any other means that are directly related to the construction of both the Taltson and Bear River dam projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Written Question 32-15(3): Appeal Process For Housing Program Clients**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I have a written question addressed to the Honourable David Krutko.

My question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation:

1. What is the appeal process for potential and existing clients?
2. Is this appeal process independent of the Housing Corporation?
3. Will the Minister provide any legislation to improve the appeal process if it is not working?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Written Question 33-15(3): NWT Trapping Industry**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is to the Minister of RWED. The Northwest Territories was built on a traditional economy by trappers. These trappers have supported many interest groups, such as the Hudson Bay Company, government agencies, churches, etcetera, in the communities.

1. How many full-time trappers are there in the NWT?
2. How many part-time trappers are in the NWT?
3. How many trappers are there in each of the regions?
4. On average, what does it cost to trap full time and part time?
5. What is the average income per trapper, either full time or part time?
6. What types of assistance are provided to trappers in the NWT?
7. How are the trappers being compensated for "potential development" in their area of livelihood and what is the process for compensation?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I am in receipt of 10 returns to written questions: Return to Written Question 20-15(3), a question from Mr. Allen to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment regarding income support clients; Return to Written Question 21-15(3), a question from Mr. Yakeleya to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development regarding land access agreements; Return to Written Question 22-15(3), a question from Mr. Menicoche to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation regarding guidelines for contractors

to deal with mould; Return to Written Question 23-15(3) from Ms. Lee to the Minister of Justice regarding overtime payment and vacancy rates at the North Slave Correctional Centre; Return to Written Question 24-15(3) from Mr. Yakeleya to the Premier regarding residential schools; Return to Written Question 25-15(3) from Mr. Yakeleya to the Minister of Transportation regarding closure of the Fort Good Hope bridge; Return to Written Question 26-15(3) from Mr. Yakeleya to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs regarding the Tulita water treatment facility; Return to Written Question 27-15(3) from Mr. Yakeleya to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation regarding housing data and programs for the Sahtu region; Return to Written Question 28-15(3) from Mr. Yakeleya to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs regarding local business opportunities to perform municipal and community affairs services; and, Return to Written Question 30-15(3) from Mr. Hawkins to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development regarding the Business Credit Corporation.

#### **Return To Written Question 20-15(3): Income Support Clients**

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Roger T. Allen on May 27, 2004, regarding income support clients.

The power given to income support workers to deny a client income assistance comes from the Social Assistance Act and regulations. Under the act, section 4, the director appoints social welfare officers to perform prescribed duties:

s.4 The director may appoint any person in the Territories to be a social welfare officer for the areas that may be designated in the appointment to perform the duties and functions that are prescribed.

Section 16(q) allows these duties to be set out in regulation:

s.16 On the recommendation of the Minister, the Commissioner may make regulations that the Commissioner considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and, without limiting the generality of this power to make regulations, may make regulations...

(q) prescribing the duties and functions of social welfare officers.

Under the social assistance regulations, "application for assistance," section 7, states:

s.7 An officer shall refuse assistance to any applicant whom the officer determines is not a person in need, and the applicant shall be informed in writing of the refusal and the reason for the refusal within 24 hours of the refusal.

All applicants who disagree with the decision of an officer respecting the granting, refusal, suspension, reduction or amount of social assistance have the right to appeal.

I have provided a detailed response letter to the Honourable David Krutko, MLA, Mackenzie Delta, and have copied Mr. Allen, explaining the situation and what actions are being taken regarding his constituent.

#### **Return To Written Question 21-15(3): Land Access Agreements**

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Norman Yakeleya on May 27, 2004, regarding land access agreements in the Sahtu.

Mr. Yakeleya was enquiring as to what the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is doing to help the Sahtu region communities organize their position on access and benefits agreements with the Mackenzie gas project.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that RWED, in cooperation with the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, has been active in assisting the Sahtu region. For example, the Sahtu leadership meeting Mr. Yakeleya referred to was financially supported by RWED, in partnership with DIAND.

A regional petroleum advisor position was established in the Sahtu region during the fall of 2003 to provide a resource person to coordinate regional activities and act as a liaison with the Mackenzie Valley pipeline office. The regional petroleum advisor provides information to support community capacity, liaises with the regional boards and industry, identifies issues and community needs related to the pipeline, and helps access additional resources from within and outside RWED.

RWED's regional petroleum advisor has attended and facilitated regional and community meetings. RWED also made a commitment to continue to make available regional and headquarters staff to meet with communities who apply for assistance to help wherever our mandate allows.

With respect to the preparations and capacity assistance required for a regional approach to access and benefit agreements, RWED's Mackenzie Valley pipeline office, the federal government and the Mackenzie Delta Producers Group are developing a resource pre-development program. This program will provide some level of financial resources for the Sahtu region to prepare for and participate in negotiations with the producers group. It is anticipated that applications for this program will be based upon a regional approach that is inclusive of all of the aboriginal organizations in the region.

The federal government's pipeline readiness office will administer the program. Program guidelines are currently being finalized. Once these guidelines are finalized, I will provide copies to all members of the Joint Cabinet/Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Pipeline Planning Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### **Return To Written Question 22-15(3): Guidelines For Contractors To Deal With Mould**

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Menicoche on May 27, 2004, regarding the guidelines for contractors to deal with mould.

Specifically, the Member asked if the government has guidelines or schedules in place for contractors to follow to prevent the mould problem from occurring. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation advocates and encourages good building practices during construction. The Housing Corporation construction

specifications contain requirements for contractors to protect building materials and unfinished construction projects from bad weather. The corporation also endeavours to select building sites that are well drained or may be easily dewatered through mechanical means. New houses are being built with high levels of insulation and adequate ventilation systems.

Additionally, the corporation is looking into the extent of mould problems in specific cases and has retained the services of an independent environmental assessment consultant. The corporation is currently preparing technical bulletins and will conduct workshops for local housing organizations and tenants on the identification, cause and mitigation of mould. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Return To Written Question 23-15(3): Overtime Payment And Vacancy Rates At North Slave Correctional Centre**

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Ms. Lee on June 1, 2004, regarding overtime payment and vacancy rates at the North Slave Correctional Centre.

The Department of Justice receives quarterly reports on the number of vacancies at the North Slave Correctional Centre. For the 12-month period from June 2003 to June 2004, the number of correctional officer vacancies reported was as follows: June 2003, 10 vacancies; August 2003, 10 vacancies; November 2003, 12 vacancies; March 2004, eight vacancies; June 2004, seven vacancies.

As of September 30, 2004, there were seven vacancies. On October 4, 2004, 12 correctional officers began a five-week training program and are working at the centre as part of their training.

There are 50 correctional officer positions at the North Slave Correctional Centre. This number does not include supervisors, managers or program staff. In total there are 91 positions at the North Slave facility.

A total of \$6,980,358 was paid to the entire staff at the North Slave Correctional Centre between June 1, 2003, and May 31, 2004. The amount of overtime paid during this period was \$216,395.

Between June 1, 2004, and September 30, 2004, \$243,913 was paid in overtime. The increase in overtime during this four-month period can be attributed to a number of factors. The move to the North Slave Correctional Centre required increased staffing levels while adapting to the new facility and providing time for employees to train on the new approach to supervision and interaction with offenders. The new facility requires an increased number of employees for each shift and there were delays due to appeals in hiring more employees.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on June 2, 2004, regarding residential schools.

1. What is the direction of this government in providing support to survivors of residential schools?

The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the support survivors of residential schools require. During the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly, this government participated in the alternative dispute resolution in the case of the Grollier Hall Residential School abuse cases. It provided funding for healing and it provided its share of compensation to the survivors. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment designated a departmental contact for the 28 claimants and their beneficiaries. A 10-year memorandum of understanding between the GNWT and the claimants provide for this ongoing support. Cabinet passed revisions to Student Financial Assistance regulations to waive residence requirements for claimants and their relatives who reside outside of the NWT.

2. Where can survivors of residential schools go to receive specific treatment for issues that are a result of the residential schools?

Community counselling services are provided through health and social services authorities through HSS staff and non-governmental organizations. Additional counselling supports are available through the Healing Drum Society, an NGO funded through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, for the specific purpose of providing residential school trauma recovery programs.

Survivors who participate in residential schools abuse trials have been provided with an additional level of counselling supports. The Department of Health and Social Services, in cooperation with Justice Canada, GNWT Justice, victims' services, and appropriate NGOs, can arrange to provide specific trial supports for survivors and their families. The Department of Health and Social Services is currently negotiating with Health Canada -- First Nations and Inuit health brace -- and Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada to enhance trial supports for survivors.

3. How is this government working with the office of Indian residential schools established by the federal government?

ECE has been working with IRSRC over the past months to develop an approach that will allow their researchers access to our records relating to residences/schools while complying with ATIPP privacy concerns. These records will help verify claims, an important step for allowing the resolution process to move ahead. The NWT archives has provided their finding aids to their collections and ECE has provided inventories of records in storage, handled as an ATIPP request in order to safeguard privacy until a mechanism is in place. Discussions are continuing in consultation with the legal division of the Department of Justice.

4. Would the Premier provide this House with clear direction as to where survivors can receive assistance in respect to residential schools court support?

As noted in the response to question three, this government is working to establish linkages with the FNIHB and learn how NWT survivors of residential schools can access support funds. The kind of assistance that is required necessarily depends upon the issue for which they receive treatment. In the Grollier Hall process, claimants were provided with an opportunity to receive treatment at the Somba K'e Healing Lodge outside of Yellowknife.

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?

Historical information is available on student residences from the 1950s to 1985, and for Akaitcho Hall up to 1995. Statistical information on students enrolled in residences for 1973 to 1976 is available, including a breakdown by: home community, age, grade and ethnicity.

Historical information on many of the residences is also available. The main source of information is the quarterly report that residences sent to the federal government every three months. These reports listed individuals by: name, home community, band/disc, DOB, gender, religion, admission date, previous years, ethnicity, days in residents and discharge date.

The GNWT has historical information on student residences and copies of the quarterly reports in both the NWT archives and in old ECE records in storage at the records centre. The federal government will have a complete set in the Library and Archives Canada. Contact the NWT archives and the director of education operations development for further information regarding access to this information.

In addition, information on mission schools may be located through contacting church archives or the Library and Archives Canada. Further contact information can be provided on request.

**Return To Written Question 25-15(3): Closure Of The Fort Good Hope Bridge**

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on June 2, 2004, with regard to the effects of the closure of the Fort Good Hope bridge.

1. When will the report of the recent bridge closure in Fort Good Hope be released?

The Department of Transportation, highways division has completed an investigation into the cause of the failure of Jackfish Creek Bridge in Fort Good Hope, which occurred last spring. A bridge failure report and a repair plan is in the final stages of completing awaiting cost estimates from suppliers.

The bridge failure was due to a combination of factors:

- poor drainage in the retaining walls;
- poor fill material;
- bin walls -- retaining walls -- not fully supported and protected;
- natural settlement at uneven rates;
- scouring of the base material;
- ice/water action.

Repairs will be completed once equipment and materials can be brought into the area, which is expected to be January or February of 2005. The equipment and materials for the repairs are not locally available in Fort Good Hope and will arrive after the Mackenzie Valley winter road has opened this winter.

Repairs will entail:

- welding and bolting support structures on the bin walls;
- installing proper drainage to the retaining walls;
- ensuring proper fill along with compaction is completed;
- providing proper protection around the base of the structure protecting against ice/water action and scour;
- deck repairs to ensure safe and smooth ride.

The repairs will be carried out under the inspection of a Department of Transportation engineer and will employ local businesses, labour and equipment to the extent possible. The cost of the repairs is estimated at \$192,000.

2. How many of these types of bridge are in use in other places in the Northwest Territories? Will the report look at the department's procedure in construction and putting such bridges into place?

The Department of Transportation has done a detailed inspection and review of its inventory of bridges and identified 10 structures that are under similar or near similar conditions as the Jackfish Creek Bridge. There are also three others, which are near enough in conditions to attract our attention. All of these structures will undergo inspections and preventive measures will be taken as necessary to ensure safe and efficient operations. Engineers are modifying the repair plan to deal with each of the structures.

Over the last five years, the Department of Transportation, highways division has introduced a foundation design with steel pilings to facilitate construction and ensure the safety of the structures. This design has formed the basis of the newer structures and will be the basis of a long-term repair plan for older bridges.

3. Will the Minister also release an action plan to address similar situations should they ever arise in other places in the Northwest Territories?

In its action plan to address the issue, the department devised a five-phase model to include:

- phase one - investigation and inspection;
- phase two - repair design and engineering;
- phase three - equipment and material preparation and deployment;
- phase four - repair; and,
- phase five - follow-up program.

The department intends to apply this action plan to all its structures in the Northwest Territories. To date it has proceeded to phase two on six structures while the remaining seven structures are at phase one. The department expects to have dealt with all its structures by the summer of 2005.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on June 2, 2004, regarding the Tulita water treatment facility.

Mr. Yakeleya asked what are the plans to finally resolve the concerns regarding the water treatment facility at Tulita.

During construction and early on in the operation of the water treatment facility, there were some problems. However, the department has been advised that the operational problems encountered when the facility first went into production were minor and have been rectified. At this time, Municipal and Community Affairs staff have not been advised of any outstanding technical or operational problems with the water treatment facility at Tulita.

Mr. Yakeleya also asked what steps the minister will taken to ensure that the people of Tulita will enjoy safe and secure water treatment facilities.

The Tulita water treatment plant was commissioned in 2003 and contains state-of-the-art water treatment and filtration equipment. The facility is operated and maintained by fully certified and trained personnel, and the water is tested regularly to ensure that the quality remains within the parameters established under the guidelines for Canadian drinking water quality.

Finally, Mr. Yakeleya asked what the timelines were for resolving the water treatment facility concerns that have been expressed by the people of Tulita.

Mr. Speaker, the department is not aware of any further operational problems that the residents of Tulita have expressed, other than those raised when the facility was first commissioned. There is a small problem with the colour of the water caused by the annual spring runoff, and I am advised that this occurs each spring for a brief period. The colour of the water is affected, but the quality of the water during the annual spring runoff remains within the guidelines during this brief period. There is a land-related issue associated with the water treatment facility and, as a first step, Municipal and Community Affairs staff arranged for the parcel that the facility is situated on to be surveyed this past summer. The next step will be for Municipal and Community Affairs staff to meet with the hamlet to discuss the turnover of the facility to the hamlet in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on June 2, 2004, regarding the housing data and programs for the Sahtu region.

1. There are currently 574 public housing residents in the Sahtu.
2. There are an estimated 97 elders in private accommodations in the Sahtu.
3. One-hundred-ninety residents of the Sahtu between the ages of 20 and 40 reside in public housing.
4. Seasonal workers are subject to the same rules as other public housing tenants in regards to rent assessment. Monthly rents are based on an assessment of monthly income. Local housing organizations are empowered to allow seasonal workers to submit T-4 information on a yearly basis and have their rents assessed based on their average income over a 12-month period. Rents are assessed on a sliding income scale.

5. Market housing units have been delivered to Fort Good Hope, Tulita and Norman Wells during the first year of the market housing initiative.
6. The Housing Corporation has budgeted approximately \$1.2 million for repair projects in the Sahtu district for the 2004-2005 fiscal year and \$1.7 million in 2005-2006. Additional renovation assistance is available to residents through the Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program and the Independent Housing Program.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Yakeleya on June 2, 2004, regarding local business opportunities to perform municipal and community affairs services.

Mr. Yakeleya asked the following questions:

1. What are the policies that the department operates under when awarding contracts or supporting local business as it relates to work performed on behalf of the department?
2. When will local business 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 the procedures relating to supporting local business?
4. This year, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is providing approximately \$49 million directly to community governments in the form of grants and contributions. This amount of funding is over 63 percent of the total appropriation given to Municipal and Community Affairs. Community governments use these funds to provide programs and services for their residents.

In some cases, community governments contract local businesses to perform this work under the authority of community government legislation. Community governments have the authority to spend this money in accordance with their own budgets and procedures. The department gets involved in these contracts only upon request and to provide our expertise.

For projects in the government's capital plan, Municipal and Community Affairs uses one of three ways to undertake work. In the case of major capital projects, the Department of Public Works and Services manages the contracts on behalf of the department. In the case of minor capital projects or major capital projects where the community government has expressed interest and has the capacity, the work is given over to the community government for their management. In the case of specialized, professional service needs such as engineering, planning and training, the department may manage the awarding of contracts, either alone or in partnership with the community government.

In the current year, Municipal and Community Affairs has issued 38 contracts at the community level. Of those, 30

are, or will be, managed by Public Works and Services; at least three contracts will be managed by a community; and up to five contracts will be managed directly by the department. The contracts to be managed by the department are for equipment purchases and a sewage/solid waste study.

All Government of the Northwest Territories contracts are managed in accordance with the government contract regulations. Other regulating documents include the Business Incentive Policy and the negotiated contracts practices.

In some cases, the work is done on an invitation to tender basis with an emphasis of encouraging local businesses to bid. Within this process, there may be opportunities for suppliers to negotiate with the responsible department or community government.

Under the new municipal legislation, which came into effect on April 1, 2004, community governments have new powers to engage in economic development activities in their communities. There may be further opportunities for local companies to engage community governments in discussions in this regard, and companies should be encouraged to approach their community governments to explore the possibility.

As a matter of course, stakeholders are advised of changes to government procurement policies by the responsible department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Robert Hawkins on June 2, 2004, regarding the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation.

Mr. Hawkins requested that I use my directive capacity and report back to Members a list setting out to whom the BCC had lent money and how much they had lent in the last 10 years.

As Mr. Hawkins had acknowledged, section 15 of the BCC Act limits release of information regarding specific applicants. I do not have any directive capacity to change this statutory limitation. Changes to a statute would require passage by the Legislative Assembly.

The specific client's name is only allowed to be released if the loan is in default and the Legislative Assembly reviews an act to write off or forgive the loan or, alternatively, with the consent of the borrower. Therefore, it is not possible for me to provide Members with a list of whom the BCC has lent money to and how much they received over the past 10 years.

I would like to note that the BCC does make public the number and amount of loans, together with a regional and community level breakdown, as well as a summary of sector assistance; however, the BCC does not provide the names of clients. This information is contained within BCC's annual report, which is tabled annually in the Legislative Assembly.

In the near future I hope to introduce legislation that will create a new corporation to amalgamate Government of the Northwest Territories business assistance programs.

This may provide an opportunity to review this issue and enhance reporting and transparency.

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

#### **ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS**

##### **Bill 8: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act**

##### **Bill 9: Write-off Of Assets And Debts Act**

##### **Bill 10: Forgiveness Of Debts Act, 2004-2005**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has reviewed Bill 8, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act; Bill 9, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2004-2005; and, Bill 10, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2004-2005, and wishes to report that bills 8 and 9 are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole and Bill 10 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

##### **Bill 7: An Act To Amend The Legal Profession Act**

##### **Bill 12: An Act To Amend The Education Act**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act, and Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, and wishes to report that Bill 7 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole and Bill 12 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

#### **ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

##### **Tabled Document 59-15(3): NWT Public Accounts 2003-2004**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled NWT Public Accounts of 2003-2004.

##### **Tabled Document 60-15(3): Improving Accountability In The GNWT: GNWT Results Reports, 2003-2004**

As well, I wish to table the following document entitled Improving Accountability to the GNWT: GNWT Results Report, 2003-2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Bell.

**Tabled Document 61-15(3): Business Credit Corporation 2004 Annual Report**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a couple of documents to table today. I wish to table the following document entitled Business Credit Corporation 2004 Annual Report.

**Tabled Document 62-15(3): Business Development Fund Annual Report And Recipients Report, April 1, 2003 To March 31, 2004**

I would also like to table the Business Development Fund Annual Report and Recipients Report from April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 63-15(3): 2004 Report Of The Auditor General To The Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly**

Colleagues, I wish to table the 2004 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly for the years ending March 31, 2002, and March 31, 2003.

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Motion 15-15(3): Appointment Of A Deputy Director Of Human Rights**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 15, 2004, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Deborah McLeod be appointed as deputy director of human rights for the Northwest Territories by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, as recommended by the Legislative Assembly;

And further, that the Speaker be authorized to communicate the effective date of appointment to the Commissioner.

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 13: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 15, 2004, I will move that Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Roland.

**Bill 14: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 15, 2004, I will move that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. 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, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

**ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I will call Committee of the Whole to order. We have one statement that has been referred to Committee of the Whole. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Madam Chair, we wish to discuss it further during tomorrow's Committee of the Whole. We would like to report progress, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Mr. Menicoche is moving that we report progress. The motion is in order and not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 48-15(3) and would like to report progress and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Do we have a seconder? The Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Whoa!

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
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
  - Minister's Statement 48-15(3) - Sessional Statement
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 14, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:55 p.m.



