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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, October 18, 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): Good afternoon, Members. Welcome back to the House for another week of business. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Michael McLeod.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 53-15(3): NWT Council Of Sport And Recreation Partners**

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am pleased to provide an update on the status of the Northwest Territories Council of Sport and Recreation Partners. For some time now, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has been working in cooperation with stakeholders within the territorial sport and recreation system to find ways to improve the overall effectiveness of the system.

During consultation on this issue over the past few years, several key themes emerged. We heard that there needs to be a forum where all communities and partners can have a voice in planning and decision-making for the system. We heard that there is a need to streamline decision-making and to improve program coordination among all the partners. Most important of all, we heard that all the stakeholders agree that we need to expand the opportunities for all Northwest Territories residents to access sport, recreation and physical activity programs in order to improve personal health and community well-being. Not surprisingly, everyone agrees that we need to find ways to access new resources to support these activities.

To best address these issues, a facilitated process was set up involving all the Northwest Territories sport and recreation partners.

In March 2003, agreement was reached among the partners that these objectives could be met through the establishment of a Northwest Territories Council of Sport and Recreation Partners.

In the year following that decision, work was undertaken by the partners to develop a vision and mandate statement, propose an organization structure and complete some other steps necessary for the establishment of the council. My predecessors and I also worked with Members of the Legislative Assembly and partners to answer concerns and address issues raised by the council.

Originally, the council was to be established last April. Because some stakeholders continued to express

concerns, implementation was delayed to allow discussion to continue.

Over this past summer, I committed to a final round of consultations and also agreed to fund the final partners meeting so that stakeholders could discuss the work completed to date and provide recommendations on the establishment of the council. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to report that as a result of this detailed consultation process and the work of the Northwest Territories sport and recreation partners during their meeting in September, the next steps in establishing the council are now getting underway and it will be in operation effective April 2005. Full details will be made available to Members when I table the implementation plan in the Legislative Assembly later today.

At this time, I would like to extend my thanks to my predecessors and all of the partner organizations for their ongoing commitment to this initiative. It was not always easy, and there were certainly differences of opinion, but all individuals were professional in their approach and clearly were striving to achieve the best possible sport and recreation system in the Northwest Territories. Specifically, I wish to thank former Ministers Jim Antoine, Roger Allen, Vince Steen and Henry Zoe; Allan Landry of Kakisa and Roy Desjarlais of Yellowknife representing the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic; Clifford McLeod of Fort Providence and Todd Shafer of Hay River representing the Mackenzie Recreation Association; Janna Bulmer of Tuktoyaktuk and Victor Stewart of Fort McPherson representing the Beaufort-Delta/Sahtu Recreation Association; Theresa Ross of Inuvik and Julian Tomlinson of Inuvik representing the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association; and, Abe Theil of Yellowknife, Richard Daitch of Fort Smith, Gary Hoffman of Hay River, and Ron Graf and Doug Rentmeister of Yellowknife representing the Sport North Federation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a pivotal time in the sport and recreation system. There has never been as much pressure to support our residents to lead healthy, active lives for their own benefit, and to consequently reduce the enormous stresses on our health care system.

The creation of the new Northwest Territories Council of Sport and Recreation Partners will provide the structure and the coordination necessary to develop a stronger and more efficient sport and recreation system, one that will consider the needs of all communities and all partners and lead the way in establishing healthier communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On Student Financial Assistance Concerns**

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise my concerns regarding northern students who have received GNWT Student Financial Assistance to attend college and university. At present, we have a number of students who are suffering financially, and it is because of the policies of this government that these students are in jeopardy of not being able to afford to complete their education. It has recently come to my attention that verification of a student's requirements for SFA is not being confirmed prior to disbursing funds for the second semester of the school year. Student transcripts are not requested between semesters nor are we receiving any kind of confirmation of completion of studies, which leaves many students at risk for being requested to refund their entire year.

If a student does not completely understand the impact of non-compliance, by withdrawing from a course or not obtaining their required percentage of a full course load to continue in the SFA program, the consequences are devastating. Some students have unknowingly deviated from regulations and are not aware that they have even caused an infraction in the first semester. They are not notified that they have breached the regulations until the end of the school year. I am aware of three students from Hay River who have been requested to return their full year of SFA funding prior to being able to reapply for assistance for the next school year. This demand for repayment was received only a few short weeks before they were scheduled to return to school.

These are full-time students, unemployed or working part-time to subsidize their living expenses while at school. Most students do not have sufficient funds to carry them through the school year without assistance from parents or a part-time job. How would we expect them to repay thousands of dollars within two or three weeks of starting their next school year? Without the option for applying for alternative student loans, which is not acceptable to SFA, these students must depend on their parents who are not always able to come up with thousands of dollars to repay this debt for them. This could mean the end of their education, Mr. Speaker. There must be a more efficient and effective way to monitor a student's performance in the first semester, so that it isn't necessary to present them with a bill for their full year of education at the end of the second semester if they deviated inadvertently from the regulations.

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

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We ask our young people to return to their home here in the Northwest Territories to work, and we are in desperate need of these graduates and their educational experience to complement our northern workforce. It is unrealistic and unfair to be penalizing these students at the end of the year. There must be a mechanism put in place to prevent

this type of nightmare from happening to any more students. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions today for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment regarding this important subject. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Location Of The New Legal Aid Office

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, I had some questions to the Minister of Public Works on the location of the new Family Law Legal Aid office in Yellowknife. I would like to use my Member's statement today to again address this decision.

I am a very strong supporter of this new office being opened in Yellowknife and it is long overdue. One of the main reasons that it has taken so long to open this office is the fact that funding it on an ongoing basis was going to be problematic for the department. The space was sole-sourced after the RFP closed and it is to be located inside Centre Square Mall. This is prime retail space in a shopping mall, Mr. Speaker. This government is going to be spending more money than it has to to locate in this space. The clientele of this new office should not have to go through a busy shopping mall to access the service of legal aid lawyers.

Also, the leasehold improvements of what had been retail space to a full-fledged operating law office is too much money to pay. It only makes sense that the less money you spend on the operation and maintenance, the more that will flow through to the people who really need it and that is the clients. It also hurts retailers located in the mall, Mr. Speaker, as they need to work collectively to attract consumers to that mall.

Of course, the landlord is happy in that it has a deal with Public Works. It's hard to beat the government as a solid tenant, and it is no fault of the landlord, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to reiterate that we are, over the life of this lease, going to be taking away valuable resources from the many clients out there who are in dire need of legal aid. It is a shame that no one stopped to think about the clients and the resources needed to meet their needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Member's Statement On Support For The GNWT Technology Service Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the technology services centre, also referred to as the TSC, and their current voluntary compliance with that centre.

Mr. Speaker, since I was elected in the 15th Assembly last year, I have been quite vocal about my support for the TSC. I believe that this position is shared by many of my colleagues here in the House. Today, in this day and age,

IT services are absolutely vital in running a government bureaucracy. As everyone knows, it takes up a big piece of our budget.

In the 2004-05 Main Estimates, Mr. Speaker, we spent about \$5 million in IT service chargebacks. During times of fiscal restraint, it is absolutely essential that we spend our IT dollars wisely and we get optimum value for those dollars. We need to pool our resources using departments, boards, agencies and even corporations. To be more efficient, we have to do that. Mr. Speaker, it is all about a consistent and coordinated system and approach. That's why the GNWT has created a centralized IT section called the TSC.

Mr. Speaker, during main estimates review in Committee of the Whole, the Minister responsible for FMBS advised committee that the 14th Assembly planned and created the TSC, but they created a system where people could voluntarily comply. Basically, boards and agencies, corporations and commissions either had the option to participate or they could opt out, so it was strictly based on their choice.

As most of us here know, most departments and agencies have opted in. I would like to point out the fact that this has created a centralized-wide process where we are able to share services where appropriate, and I have to stress it has to be where appropriate because not in all cases will it be an appropriate measure to consolidate.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to my point. The NWT Housing Corporation has not opted in. In other words, they are being kept separate. It is my opinion, Mr. Speaker, that utilizing a centralized IT service should not be an option. Mr. Speaker, two other GNWT corporations, the WCB and the Power Corporation, are in this program. So I really see no reason why we should be treating the NWT Housing Corporation any differently.

Mr. Speaker, during the 14th Assembly, it was considered an option, but the 14th Assembly does not rule over the 15th Assembly, so it's time to make this voluntary...

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

MR. HAWKINS: Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my 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, especially the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, it is time that we move from a voluntary compliance to a mandatory policy. I would like to see the Minister responsible for FMBS work with the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation to create a mandatory policy where we bring the Housing Corporation into the fold with the rest of the government. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will have questions for the appropriate Minister later during oral question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Member's Statement On Housing Needs In Nahendeh

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, adequate and affordable housing continues to be a major problem across the territory and in smaller communities particularly. I refer to the 2004 survey of our community housing needs released by the NWT Housing Corporation. The report states that 29 percent of the territorial households have some form of housing problem. About half of those problems are identified as core need, meaning that the cost of repairs exceeds the ability of the homeowners to pay. The situation is more acute when we look at regional statistics. In my riding of Nahendeh, 42 percent of householders have housing problems of some sort. That is 319 households with problems, out of a total of 754. One-hundred-ninety-one have been identified as core need. According to my calculations, that means almost 60 percent of householders in Nahendeh have problems that they can't afford to fix.

As disturbing as this situation is, the picture looks even bleaker when we examine the housing situation in specific communities. Of major concern in my riding is the community of Fort Liard. Here is what we are looking at in Fort Liard: 91 households have housing problems, that is exactly half, or 50 percent; of those 91 householders with problems, 59 of them have been identified as core need. That works out to 65 percent. What particularly concerns me in Fort Liard is the condition of housing for elders. I cannot say why exactly, but, for some reason, the provision of adequate housing for elders in this community has fallen short of what is provided elsewhere. We can also be certain that any elder with a housing problem would be core need, meaning that they are unable to effectively care for themselves.

The NWT Housing Corporation estimates that approximately \$750,000 will be needed to address the problems in Fort Liard alone and bring housing conditions up to par. So far, the government has budgeted only \$250,000. That is a start, Mr. Speaker, but it is only a start. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Member's 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, I would like to thank my honourable colleagues for allowing me to conclude my statement. There is still a long way to go, and I look forward to hearing from the government as to when we will be going the rest of the distance. I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation will be coming to Fort Liard in a few weeks' time to hear from the residents firsthand. This is a very positive gesture on his part, and I am looking forward to him coming and being ready to listen to the community, because people in this community most definitely will be prepared for the housing Minister. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Youth Relocating In Pursuit Of Education

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I use my Member's statement to talk about some of the problems our youth are being subjected to today, specifically on education. I am not talking about the costs families are faced with in relocating their children to the larger centres to receive a better education, but the negative societal impact we will be encountering in the future from the disruption of family stability as a consequence of geographical relocation in pursuit of the economic independence and benefits received when living in the larger commercial areas.

Mr. Speaker, the youth that were receiving education in the smaller remote communities who are now relocated to the larger centres, because of their parents having chosen to move, are opting to quit school because of peer pressure, pressure to keep up with classmates who have had better educational foundations and support mechanisms which enable them to keep pace with the growing demands of our school curriculum. Mr. Speaker, it is an admirable trait to seek better employment or educational opportunities to ensure the well-being of the family, but we need to take into account the effect this economic displacement has to our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I have received concerns from families faced with this dilemma. It seems that there is little or no information available, or very little directly focused counselling services for parents and children, and no proactive support programs to address this issue and bring kids back into the regular school programs that they should be in. Mr. Speaker, I feel that with the growing number of remote community families relocating to the larger centres, the number of youth dropping out or refraining from enrolment will increase proportionately, therefore leading to increased social costs in areas related to youth crimes, youth justice and also many other associated costs such as those related to family violence.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage this government to pay heed to these and other social indicators so that we can work towards addressing them promptly and possibly resolving and/or reducing these growing numbers before they become the norm of our social northern fabric. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Waste Reduction Week

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize that today is the first day of Waste Reduction Week in Canada. The majority of the people here in the NWT would probably claim to be environmentally friendly. It is something that certainly fits our lifestyle and our image, but I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if we really looked at ourselves, do we really demonstrate that our personal lifestyles and our choices and our habits prove this? I look around this Assembly, Mr. Speaker; there is a lot of horsepower here, but there is a lot of horsepower out in the parking lot, too. You should go and have a look at the number of SUVs and the big trucks that are parked out there that we use. These are choices that we have made.

Are we really demonstrating that we are being environmentally friendly and responsible in these kinds of choices? It is something that we should all ask ourselves.

In greenhouse gases in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, the NWT produces 30 tons per person, compared to the national average of 21 tons. Energy consumption in the NWT on a per capita basis is the third highest in Canada, behind Alberta and Saskatchewan as a result of their agriculture and their energy sectors. It is kind of hard to turn this around. Perhaps if we take chances or take action to change our lifestyles and habits, we can make a difference. But we can't continue to be in denial of the damage and waste that we cause.

One of the things that we could look at, one simple thing, but it makes a difference, is whether or not we choose to double-side our photocopies. We do a lot of that in this government, Mr. Speaker, and I have noticed that the reports and things that we get are getting better. We are doing more double-sided copying. If we looked at one other statistic here that said the average person working in an office discards 57 kilograms of waste paper a year, that is the equivalent in Canada of 80 million trees, Mr. Speaker. There are lots of opportunities to act in more responsible ways. We should all take a look at what our attitudes and our choices are in our lifestyles and in our offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Member's Statement On Addictions Treatment In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to speak about addictions treatment in the Sahtu. Over the course of the past 12 months since we have come together for the first time as an Assembly, Members have made a number of statements about the problems our communities face with respect to alcohol and drug addictions. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, this problem on how we assemble tends to address it. It is perhaps the most pressing issue we are dealing with today. There are a number of changes to addictions counselling services in the Sahtu. Some of them are quite positive, and I would like to voice my support for these initiatives. I heard positive feedback from my constituents about the efforts of the Community Wellness workers in the Sahtu. We also look forward to two mental health addictions counsellors who are soon to begin work in the Sahtu as part of the role of the Sahtu regional health board. Some initial steps have been taken to improve the delivery of addictions treatment in the Sahtu, but more must be done. The report of the delivery of the addictions services in the NWT is quite...(inaudible)...A state of emergency was submitted to the Minister in May of 2002. In my view, Mr. Speaker, I do not think the government has done enough to respond to the recommendations contained in that report. What we have seen to date is a start, but more can be done. I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Location Of The New Legal Aid Office

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today to the contract DPW has entered into to set up the second Legal Aid office at the Centre Square Mall. Mr. Speaker, going by Minister Roland's answers to Mr. Ramsay's questions last Friday, it appears that Minister Roland is completely content with the situation that the proprietor who did not even meet the deadline was rewarded with a sole-source or, at best, negotiated contract, for what amounts to a maximum of a 15-year lease, in one of the most expensive retail spaces in the city, to open a second Legal Aid office.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister further states in the unedited Hansard, page 1756, that, "we don't put a lot of weight on who the clientele might be going into that space." Mr. Speaker, I must say to you, this is absolutely scandalous and unacceptable...

AN HON. MEMBER: Scandalous.

MS. LEE: ...and this decision has to be revisited and reversed, and I demand that this government does a better job.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of operation is the Minister running at DPW? Is the Minister telling us that the rules and regulations allow that the officials from his department can call up anybody and negotiate a sole-source contract for a 15-year lease with whatever business they want? I would like to know how I'd get into that kind of business, Mr. Speaker. How does a person at DPW decide which business he's going to give this 15-year contract to? If the criteria was only that it had to be a storefront or have easy disability access, I could give him at least five locations that I would have expected these officials to consider. I am most appalled at the Minister's suggestion that for government contracts they don't look at, when they're looking for space, what their use might be. Is the Minister saying that there's no difference between whether the government runs a motor vehicle office or a Legal Aid office? There are a lot of confidential issues involved in something like Legal Aid or other programs that the government offers. Should there not be due consideration -- the Minister being the Minister of Finance, as well -- that every dollar that we allocate for Legal Aid funding goes to legal services and not to the best, most lucrative, expensive, luxurious pad that you could find for a legal office?

---Laughter

I object to this and I expect...

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Lee, your time for your Member's statement is over.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize two of my employees in the gallery today, all the way from Fort McPherson from my constituency office: Liz Wright; and with her is Evan Walz who is my executive assistant.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Everett McQueen; a friend of mine, a team mate; and his two beautiful daughters, Wynter and Montana. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to welcome any members of the public we have in the gallery who haven't been recognized previously. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 233-15(3): Requirements For The Continued Student Financial Assistance

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with my Member's statement today, I would like to address my question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, with regard to Student Financial Assistance. I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, what process is in place with SFA to confirm that a student has met the requirement of the regulations at the end of their first semester of school?

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

Return To Question 233-15(3): Requirements For The Continued Student Financial Assistance

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the expectation is that a student embarked on a post-secondary career will have read the application form, understand what the requirements are, and be aware that any changes in their situation may impact on whether or not they owe money back to the department, or whether they will be considered in the future. The department does not actively follow up to see whether or not somebody has been successful in the first semester. The expectation is that the student, as part of their process, will make sure that they stay in compliance with the rules and regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 233-15(3): Requirements For The Continued Student Financial Assistance

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I imply from the Minister's response that he thinks if you're in post-secondary education you shouldn't be there unless you're smart enough to figure out the government's regulations. Anyway, I won't comment on that.

Mr. Speaker, I understand, from these regulations, that students are notified by letter at the beginning of the first semester. However, four months later can be a long time for a lot of students. Some of these kids are 18 years old. Does SFA notify the student at the end of the first semester of any changes to their program, or ask for any additional information regarding their first semester? Do they contact them at the end of the first semester, even by e-mail or fax or anything, and say did you stay in the program, did you change your course load, did you do anything which deviated from the regulations? Are there any reminders? Are there any requests for supplemental information between first and second semesters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 233-15(3): Requirements For The Continued Student Financial Assistance

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, the answer to the question is no. The expectation is, as I said, that students are made to understand very clearly. It's very, very clearly set out on the application form that any change may require them to pay back. So if they're not paying attention to that, yes, they could be in trouble. We're finding that for the most part students are having no trouble staying in compliance. In fact, since 2001, there haven't been that many appeals from people who feel that they have been treated incorrectly by the SFA program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 233-15(3): Requirements For The Continued Student Financial Assistance

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three students in Hay River, so I don't know if we're the exception here or what. I understand that requesting transcripts between semesters would delay funds being disbursed at the beginning of the second semester and would not be beneficial to students. However, would the Minister consider looking into a reminder notice, or an inquiry being sent to students a few weeks before the end of their semester; something that could be e-mailed, as I said, or faxed back to say that they are in compliance? Would the Minister consider sending out such communication to the students? After all, the whole intent of the SFA program is to see the students succeed, not to say we have regulations, you didn't meet them, pay us back the money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 233-15(3): Requirements For The Continued Student Financial Assistance

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to look into whether or not we could accommodate that request. If it's something that could be done easily by e-mail, then certainly we could use it as an opportunity to contact students and remind them, for instance, that it's time to get their names in for employment in the summer. There are a number of reasons that we may want to contact students; but reminding them, too, that any change that they may have made to their program, if they haven't been successful, may impact on their qualification for funds, would also be a good idea. So, yes, Mr. Speaker, I will look into that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 233-15(3): Requirements For The Continued Student Financial Assistance

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Dent, for that very positive response. That sounds like an excellent idea that could be bundled with other information. Now, as to the students who may not have been able to comply with the regulations and didn't successfully complete their first year of studies; on the repayment right now you have to pay the entire amount, which could be thousands of dollars, before you can go on with your second year. So essentially it means drop out of school, get a job, pay the government back, then revisit the issue of your education. Could the Minister also look into any means that would be more lenient towards the students in terms of a way that they could repay this debt, but have it not send their education off the rails? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 233-15(3): Requirements For The Continued Student Financial Assistance

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, because the regulations were in place the way they were, I don't believe that it could be forgiven or forgotten or ignored. The rules will have to be applied as they were at the time that the issue or the problem happened. It may interest the Member to know that I have given direction and we are changing some of the rules to make it easier for students to qualify for full-time performance during the year, because we will agree now that a full-time course load is equivalent to 60 percent as opposed to 75 percent. That will be starting for first-year students and working through the system next year. So we are trying to make the system more responsive to students, particularly those who are coming into the system or into post-secondary education from small northern communities for the first time. But it's not possible for us to go back and change the way regulations deal with people retroactively. I believe that there may be some possibility to examine payment schedules and so on, but the end result will have to be the same because of the way the regulations were set out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 234-15(3): Integration Of The Technology Service Centre And NWT Housing Corporation

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in my Member's statement today I spoke in favour of the centralized IT service referred to as the TSC. I stated earlier that I think it's time for the government to implement not an opt-in participation policy, but a mandatory policy for a centralized technical service centre. Pooling our common resources just makes sense. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of FMBS is will the Minister work with the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation to ensure that the Housing Corporation's transition into the TSC happens this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 234-15(3): Integration Of The Technology Service Centre And NWT Housing Corporation

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the decision made on forming the TSC was done with consideration of what departments and capacity we had within government, pulling the resources together and ensuring we created an environment where things would move along in a positive way. We have determined that this move was the right move, and to go back now to look at making it mandatory is something that we can look at doing. So I could go back to my Cabinet colleagues for further discussion on this that, in fact, we make it mandatory on other groups. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 234-15(3): Integration Of The Technology Service Centre And NWT Housing Corporation

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister. The words positive, standards, centralized and even sometimes the words harmonization of standards of how we implement things and how we run things and coordinate things come to mind when I think of this, but, Mr. Speaker, would the Minister give me an indication as to when he will bring that discussion to Cabinet in regard to the folding in of the NWT Housing Corporation into the greater picture, the greater good of the TSC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 234-15(3): Integration Of The Technology Service Centre And NWT Housing Corporation

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Member for his positive comments about the TSC. In coming together, in bringing this together, it has had its difficulties, but we've been working through them and looking at the next phase of bringing the service together to be more efficient as a government. So I don't have a timeline as of yet. I'll speak to my departments that are involved in this and look at what timing we can put in place for this discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 234-15(3): Integration Of The Technology Service Centre And NWT Housing Corporation

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize persuasion is always a lot nicer than forcing people and I'm not suggesting that the Minister become a leg breaker, but I think this policy needs to be a mandatory policy so we don't deal with this in the future. I'd like to hear the Minister say today that he will look towards making this a mandatory policy where all departments, boards and agencies get involved. I should say where applicable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 234-15(3): Integration Of The Technology Service Centre And NWT Housing Corporation

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where applicable we will look at coming forward with some options to my Cabinet colleagues. Once we've had that discussion, we can share it with Members of this Assembly. Thank you.

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

Question 235-15(3): Update On Space Allocation For Community Health Workers

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement earlier today I spoke about the issue of drug and alcohol treatment in the region. There are a number of unacceptable shortcomings in the way that addictions treatment is currently being carried out in the Sahtu; for example, the delay of allocating space for the community wellness workers in Deline and Fort Good Hope. My question to the Minister of Health and Social Services today is will the Minister of Health and Social Services provide this House and the Assembly with an update of the space allocation of community wellness workers in Deline and Fort Good Hope? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 235-15(3): Update On Space Allocation For Community Health Workers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member has raised an issue that we have discussed before, and I would like to inform the Member in this House that we are taking the steps and we are going to be planning to address those shortcomings. We've been working on it for some time. So I'd like to give him that assurance. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 235-15(3): Update On Space Allocation For Community Health Workers

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Speaker, I find it unacceptable that this government has not made the drug and alcohol treatment in the regions a priority, given that the survey just reported in the news about the alcohol and drug issue that's going to be a big issue with the development of a pipeline. I read in the 2000 report of the delivery of addiction services in the Northwest Territories, I was particularly interested in having a mobile addiction treatment centre taking into consideration the recommendations of this report, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he would commit to looking into a mobile addiction treatment centre program in the Sahtu region. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 235-15(3): Update On Space Allocation For Community Health Workers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there were some efforts made on the idea of trying to put mobile treatment into place in some communities, and I'd be glad to share that information with the Member and then we can take a look at it with the same information base and try to determine what is the best way to proceed. I agree with the Member that there is potential for mobile treatment, and that was the idea when we started those efforts some time ago. So I will get that information for the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 235-15(3): Update On Space Allocation For Community Health Workers

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister. Would the Minister commit to a time frame that we could work with the other regions in the Mackenzie Valley? I'm going to be asking this on behalf of the Sahtu, that we could come together and look at the possibility of looking at a mobile treatment program that they could foresee sometime in the Sahtu region in light of the potential of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline coming down. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 235-15(3): Update On Space Allocation For Community Health Workers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we stand ready to sit with the Member. So there's no confusion, Mr. Speaker, we stand ready to meet with the Member or the Social Programs committee to look at how we are delivering those services, and we do agree that there is a huge impact of resource development that is underway and we want to best be able to deal with that. So the offer is there and we would be happy to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 235-15(3): Update On Space Allocation For Community Health Workers

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand ready, Mr. Minister. Mr. Speaker, I've asked the Minister if he would again commit to meet with -- I know he made some offers to the standing committee -- the Sahtu leadership in terms of gathering information. It's a huge concern in our region in terms of making a commitment to meet with the RWED Minister in terms of the social impacts in the communities. Drug and alcohol programs are a big issue for our region, so I guess I would ask him if he would commit to also meet with the Sahtu leadership. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 235-15(3): Update On Space Allocation For Community Health Workers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to work through the Sahtu authority and the staff that's there, as well as the Member, and look at the most appropriate way to deal with this issue. If that entails, as well, meeting with the leadership to talk more specifically about alcohol and drug concerns, then, yes, we will do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 236-15(3): Waste Reduction And Recycling Legislation

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along the theme of waste reduction and recycling in the NWT, we go through something like 25 million containers a year for various products; 25 million among a population of just over 40,000. It's a remarkable number and it's one of the reasons that a year ago this Assembly passed the beverage container recycling act. My question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development to ask him about when we might expect to see this act implemented across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Honourable Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 236-15(3): Waste Reduction And Recycling Legislation

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member indicated, the legislation in the life of the last government was in fact the Waste Reduction and Recovery Act. The first program falling underneath that legislative piece of work was the Beverage Container Recovery Program and that's what we've been working on. The Member will remember that we struck an advisory committee a few months back. I think there were nine members from environmental organizations, from communities, from industry, who sat down to discuss the program and come up with some advice to us on regulations and a methodology for development of the program. We've had the benefit of that input. My department has been working with Justice to develop those regulations. We think we're pretty close now, and

the next step is a call for RFPs to go out this month that will speak to how the regional processing centres and the community depots will be structured across the territory. We're now thinking that by the end of March we can roll this program out and I'm certainly looking forward to that. I think it's going to go a long way toward developing a recycling ethic in the territory. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 236-15(3): Waste Reduction And Recycling Legislation

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That sounds very progressive. I know one of things that was of concern when we were putting this bill together was the ability across all the communities to put this into effect. Can the Minister give us some sense that, indeed, all of our communities will be able to act on at least some part of this new initiative? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 236-15(3): Waste Reduction And Recycling Legislation

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we've determined that it would be cost-prohibitive to set up what we're going to set up in the regions, these processing centres in every community across the North. I think what we've decided to do is establish community depots that will feed into the regional processing centres. It's our intention that all communities will have community depots; whether they'll all be up and running by the time this program is rolled out on April 1st, I'm not sure. A lot will depend on the proposals we get back as we go out now with an expression for that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 236-15(3): Waste Reduction And Recycling Legislation

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, one of the principles of the act is that both the manufacturers and the users of containers will pay for their use and that is, of course, from the manufacturing to the actual use and retail delivery and then the disposal. It's a good principle. But it is something that, because there will be costs assessed at the retail and consumer level, is going to have an impact on the cost of these goods and materials. Can the Minister advise, either through the committee or his analysis, what will the impact be perhaps for the average northern family of the cost of implementing this? Is it going to cost us more to do our shopping and run our businesses because of this act? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 236-15(3): Waste Reduction And Recycling Legislation

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm still awaiting some of the input from the committee to determine what makes the most sense in the application of these fees. My sense is there will be an amount paid by consumers as they pick up these beverage containers which they will get back if they recycle. So I think the incentive is there for people to recycle in order to keep

costs down. It also made sense, I believe, to have industry involved in the development of this program. The last thing we wanted to see was people finding a way to circumvent our fees by getting beverage containers from other jurisdictions. So we've been working with industry to better understand how we might prevent that. But I think the important thing here is that we have a well thought out program that makes sense and encourages recycling by providing an incentive. I think the monies, the rebates, coming from that recycling should do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 236-15(3): Waste Reduction And Recycling Legislation

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, through the course of this analysis and this work, will the Minister bring to the attention of the public and this Assembly any estimates or any projections on what some of those costs may be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 236-15(3): Waste Reduction And Recycling Legislation

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you. I can certainly work with committee to do that. One of the unknowns here is how successful we'll be at recycling. There is a cost to setting up this program and I suppose if we do a very poor job of recycling, then that program cost will be paid off much more quickly. If we really take up this recycling ethic in earnest, then it will be over a longer period of time. I hope that we do take that up, and certainly we'll work with committee so we can analyze this and discuss, in fact, how well it's progressing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 237-15(3): Cost Of New Family Law Legal Aid Office

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Floyd Roland. I'm just wondering if the Minister could advise the Members of this House what it's going to cost the government to set up the new Family Law Legal Aid office in the Centre Square Mall. That's in terms of leasehold improvements, and, as well, maybe if he would like to provide the House with a detailed costing on that arrangement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister of Public Works and Services, the Honourable Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 237-15(3): Cost Of New Family Law Legal Aid Office

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the office space the Member is speaking of is one that is worked on between the Legal Services Board, being the client, and Public Works and Services, as the one involved in the issuing of the RFP that went out and trying to see if any of the RFPs that were returned fit the criteria, and, going on that, recommend to the parties involved that that would be the way to go. My understanding of the process on the office space was the

RFP was issued. Three responses were received. Two were on time, but did not fit the RFP. One came in but was late. Phone calls were made to all the parties involved to see if there was adequate space or alternative space and if they'd be able to meet that. From the information I'm provided, I'm told that two responses did not fit the criteria, even after the calls. The final company, the one that has the contract now, did have space and discussions went ahead on that basis. My understanding is that in the RFP it also went ahead with the requirement for general office space. So that would be the parameters that this RFP went out on, and I understand that we fall right in within that category when we compare some of our other leases out there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 237-15(3): Cost Of New Family Law Legal Aid Office

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering how often has the Minister's department sole sourced office space. Have they set a new precedent in terms of process and price? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 237-15(3): Cost Of New Family Law Legal Aid Office

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the exact information that the Member wants right now on how many spaces we've sole sourced. Sole sourcing is done by the government from time to time, looking at the criteria involved. I can work at getting that information together and providing it to the Member, if that's what he'd like. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 237-15(3): Cost Of New Family Law Legal Aid Office

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister, for your response. I'm just wondering if the Minister appreciates the premise that the more money you spend on leasehold improvements and office space, the less money flows through to the clients who really need the service. I know the Minister probably didn't have a direct say in this sole-sourced lease, but does he appreciate that fact? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 237-15(3): Cost Of New Family Law Legal Aid Office

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is something that I do appreciate, is the fact that we have limited resources in the Northwest Territories and we need to spend it wisely. In this particular situation, an RFP was let, responses were received, all of them did not, for one reason or another, qualify with what was out there. Upon discussions with all the parties involved, it was sought that one company did have space available that was required by the Legal Services Board. The Legal Services Board requested space that was visible, had easy access and a storefront. That was some of the main

criteria that they had requested. From the information provided, they're happy with the location. Thank you.

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

Question 238-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are also to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, I must say that every aspect of this contract for the new Legal Aid office is very questionable. Mr. Speaker, I know a little bit about legal aid files; I used to work on legal aid files. There are so many people who don't get legal aid assistance, and when they do they are doled out two or three hours of legal aid service from a lawyer. Now we're going to house this program in this most expensive area and I can't wait for them to tell them, you know, we can spend all the money we have in this mall to sit here, but we can't give you more than two hours of legal aid service. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the proprietor who got this contract didn't even meet the deadline. We rewarded them by giving them a sole-source contract. If a student who applied for SFA was delayed, I bet you they wouldn't get that kind of reward. So I'd like to know how the Minister justifies giving a sole-source contract in a free market like Yellowknife? A sole-source contract for a 15-year lease to a business who didn't even meet the deadline. How does he justify that, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 238-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the Members feel that this is an important service, and that's why we've gone out to set up another office so that all members affected, whether it's a family separating, can seek service and get that right now that was a difficult thing to offer. Lawyers in one office could not work for both clients if it came to a family separation. We, as a government, recognized that, established the money to develop this space and created a second office. From the information I'm provided, we are not going to reduce the level of service. We are going to increase the level of service to the residents of the Northwest Territories who require this type of service. Again, for the cost of the actual space, an RFP went out that requested general office space and under that request the responses were received. I'll say again that all three responses that were received did not meet the criteria, but on reviewing all three files it was felt that the one company that did submit -- it missed the timeline, and I've been open about that -- fit the criteria enough that we could have some discussions with them and came to an agreement on the price. Again, the price that we worked with was that based on general office space. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 238-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister just repeated what I said, which is that the department rewarded the party who did not meet the

timeline by giving them a 15-year leasehold contract. Now, I have a problem with that. The second thing is, I resent greatly anybody across the floor saying that when we're asking questions about the way they're spending legal aid money that we somehow do not support expansion of the Legal Aid program and I do not appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell the Minister and the Cabinet, they know that other NGOs, for example, the Centre for Northern Families, suggested that perhaps this new lawyer practice out of that service. A doctor goes there for service and it's been a great success. Why don't the lawyers go where the most services are? Why didn't the Department of Public Works and Services staff look at places like that or any of the many buildings around the courthouse or downtown area? Why did they go to the most expensive mall and say what do you have? I want to know what regulations there are that the staff could just call anybody and say do you have a place for 15 years. I want to know what the criteria is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 238-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Member wants a copy of the RFP that went out, I'll gladly provide one. The fact is, an RFP went out, responses were received, it was a public exercise and we received three responses. From that, we deemed that they all did not fit the criteria for one reason or another, whether the offer that was made did not fit the question for adequate space or storefront, or easy access, downtown, or the timelines. Based on phone calls we had with these companies, individuals from those companies, we went and discussed with the Legal Services Board what we felt was a viable option. On that we've offered a five-year lease with two options of five years. That can be reviewed if it's felt that at the end of the first term it is not appropriate to continue with that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 238-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister still did not give any information about what criteria the staff has to meet in order to call somebody and say I'm looking for space in Yellowknife and I'm ready to do sole source. Because, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister indicated, of the three businesses that applied, none of them met the criteria. So it was a zero. Nobody met the criteria. So as far as I'm concerned, all the businesses in Yellowknife were entitled to have this negotiation with the Minister's department. So why wasn't the Panda Mall consulted? Why wasn't the old Overlander's space consulted? Why weren't any other buildings consulted? As far as I'm concerned, when the two proposals didn't meet the criteria and the third one was late, everybody was starting from zero. It's wrong for that business that did not even meet the deadline to have the sole-source contract. I want to know what criteria, where is the rule book that governs the staff as to how they act in these cases? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 238-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have policies on whether we go RFP, sole source, negotiated contract or public tender, and I disagree with the Member that this was wrong. We went out for an RFP, a public process. We went out to the public and asked for input. We received some input. For one reason or another that didn't fit the guidelines out there, but they were close enough. We sat down, used the same companies, had discussions about adequate space, and went forward with the one we felt was best at the time. I will provide a copy of the policies to the Member for the guidelines on how we work around these. It's not something we would do whimsically. We wouldn't do this just for the sake of one day waking up and deciding whether it is a good day or not to do a sole source. We went through a public process. We took the information from that process and, instead of going out and adding to the cost of more advertising and so on, we took the best deal and went ahead on that basis. I hope that, at the end of the day, we would be better able to serve the clients of the Northwest Territories through this space. A business put in a proposal. It just happens to be downtown in the Centre Square Mall. They put it in. It is not like we went to them, phoned them up and said hey, let's arm wrestle or strong arm you into providing this service. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 238-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister should check his facts, because he has provided information to us that suggests that, in fact, they did call the business and say let's work out a deal. Mr. Minister, I still want to know when they did meet the original criteria, so everything was zero based, so why do you only deal with those who applied for it who didn't meet the criteria? The third one was late in the first place. That should have been just written off right away, and you should have started right from the beginning. Shouldn't that be the common, sensible way to do that? I also want to know why not a proposal like the Centre for Northern Families who had a proposal. If the Minister is going to call anybody to do it, why don't you consider everybody fairly? I am sure the NGO could have done a lot with the 15-year contract to provide legal services in their premises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 238-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an RFP went out. Three responses were received. Those three responses were looked at and reviewed. We moved on with what we thought was the best option. We worked with the people who responded to a public RFP process. Thank you.

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

Question 239-15(3): Housing Assessment In Fort Liard

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Recently, the Housing Corporation undertook an assessment for Fort Liard. I am just wondering if the Minister can comment whether that assessment has been completed for the community of Fort Liard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Return To Question 239-15(3): Housing Assessment In Fort Liard

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this study being done in Fort Liard. We based our information on lead surveys that we have conducted on that. That is how we allocate our budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 239-15(3): Housing Assessment In Fort Liard

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for that response. I was under the impression that they were addressing the special needs of Fort Liard. With that being said, it was highlighted as a key community. I was just wondering what the corporation plans to do about Fort Liard, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 239-15(3): Housing Assessment In Fort Liard

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to Fort Liard and the information that we have been looking at and where we know there is a need, we have been implementing housing programs by way of the EDAP programs and also the Independent Housing Program. There has been an increase in the number of housing units that have been built in Fort Liard. We are seeing more people apply for programs. I think that is one thing that we are trying to do, is get more of our field staff from Fort Simpson into the communities to make people aware that these programs are out there to make improvements to their houses, and also give them opportunities to either outright purchase a home through the EDAP program or through the Independent Housing Program for seniors. We saw an increase last year with regard to what has been spent. Last year, it was over \$900,000. Again, it is almost \$900,000 being spent in Fort Liard for housing.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 239-15(3): Housing Assessment In Fort Liard

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, just with respect to Fort Liard, I believe it was identified as a special concern to the Housing Corporation because of the recent mould problems. I would just like to ask the Minister again if there was special consideration taken to retrofitting and renovating the homes that had been identified with the mould problems last fall. That is what I was addressing, Mr. Speaker. Has the corporation identified some extraordinary funding to help the community of Fort Liard?

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

Further Return To Question 239-15(3): Housing Assessment In Fort Liard

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to the community housing cooperative, we are working with the community. We have identified money in next year's budget to do a maintenance program in regards to the mould problem, and also to bring that building up to certain standards so we are able to occupy the whole building. There is a report on that particular project. I thought you were talking about the programs in general. So we are looking at that. We have a plan in place. I will then share that with the Member.

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

Supplementary To Question 239-15(3): Housing Assessment In Fort Liard

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he can make some time and provide that so we can sit down and discuss some of the preliminary plans that they have for Fort Liard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 239-15(3): Housing Assessment In Fort Liard

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am willing to sit down with the Member and go over the plans for that particular project. Thank you.

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

Question 240-15(3): Details Of Additional Federal Health Funding

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions now are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, the Minister just returned from an F/P/T Health Ministers' meeting in Vancouver. I understand from the media coverage that the federal Minister of Health was in attendance at that meeting. Not too many weeks ago, we were very happy and excited about information brought back from Ottawa by our Premier and Health Minister with respect to what was going to be more funding for health care in the Northwest Territories. Some of the areas that were covered were things like \$150 million over five years for the three northern territories, some additional help with medical travel for the northern territories, and also some specific

aboriginal health funding. When the Member of Parliament held a press conference with representatives of our government, with the Premier, on this, a lot of the details were yet to be concluded and worked out with respect to how that funding was going to look for us. So having returned now from this Health Ministers' meeting, I just want to give the Minister of Health and Social Services an opportunity to share with us if there has been any more detail brought to some of those commitments which were a little vague at the time they were made. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 240-15(3): Details Of Additional Federal Health Funding

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have some more detail in terms of how the \$150 million is going to be allocated. There is a \$75 million travel fund over five years. It is going to be split between the three territories: 70 percent to Nunavut, 20 percent to the Northwest Territories, and 10 percent to the Yukon, which will bring our share roughly to about \$3 million a year. With regard to the territorial health access fund, it is \$65 million over five years. It is going to be split equally among the three jurisdictions. Our share will be roughly \$4.3 million a year. There is also \$2 million a year for five years for a territorial working group for the three territories and the federal government to have the resources to look at how we can better address the specific northern health issues that are out there. We are still waiting to get clarification on the territorial health access fund in terms of whether it will be a grant or a contribution, which could have an impact on our formula funding arrangement with the federal government. We are also waiting to get clarified further with the federal Minister in regards to the territorial health access fund, the basket of services that would be funded through that particular fund. The request from ourselves has been that we be given the money, we put it to our northern priorities, and we will call for it at the end of the year from a broad basket of agreed to services. It was really a positive step forward. When the Minister goes down next week, they will be looking for some further, more specific detail that lies not with the Department of Health Canada, but with federal Finance. We had a brief Cabinet meeting this morning, on the outcome of the weekend meeting. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 240-15(3): Details Of Additional Federal Health Funding

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I'm a little bit disappointed in the fact that the \$150 million was a separate fund for the medical travel, which I thought was over and above the \$150 million but it looks like it's been broken down. Was there a specific meeting of northern leaders to determine how this 70 percent, 20 percent, 30 percent was going to be split out on that \$75 million pocket of funding, or did the federal government just dictate that's how it was going to be? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 240-15(3): Details Of Additional Federal Health Funding

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the three territories, going back to when the agreement was first made at the First Ministers' meeting, trying to anticipate some of these questions.

While we were in Vancouver we had the opportunity for a meeting with Minister Dosanjh and his staff on the Saturday after the regular meetings were over. From that the officials -- the deputies, from the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon -- sat down with the assistant deputy minister of Health from the federal government and they talked about some of the detail that we didn't get a chance to get clear with Minister Dosanjh at the Saturday meeting. It was done collaboratively. It wasn't imposed on us by the federal government, but there was a general recognition that there are clearly more health transportation costs and medical travel costs sustained by Nunavut than there are from the Northwest Territories or from the Yukon. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 240-15(3): Details Of Additional Federal Health Funding

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize the challenges facing Nunavut with respect to medical travel may be somewhat more difficult than we have here in the Northwest Territories, but we also have twice the population. We have the largest population here. We must have twice as many people as Nunavut, and they are getting 70 percent. Anyway, it sounds like it was negotiated by officials reminding us not to send...

--Laughter

It's okay. I was also going to ask, Mr. Speaker, are we the point of contact for the aboriginal health funding that was announced by the federal government? Are we the point of contact for implementing and accessing that, as the GNWT? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 240-15(3): Details Of Additional Federal Health Funding

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to the aboriginal health fund, the one step of progress that came out of the meeting with Minister Dosanjh and all the provincial and territorial Ministers was that the co-chairs and Minister Dosanjh and Minister Smitherman from Ontario, who is now the co-chair on behalf of the provinces and territories, are going to sit down with the aboriginal leaders that were involved at the First Ministers' meeting, and meet with them to start the discussions about the detail of how this fund is to be accessed, how the money is to flow, and how it will be allocated on a contribution basis or will it be done a different way. So those questions have yet to be answered.

It was not clear; Minister Dosanjh didn't have any further information, and that was the direction that was given to himself and the Minister from Ontario. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 240-15(3): Details Of Additional Federal Health Funding

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for the update and the results of his trip to Vancouver. Inasmuch as it shares information with the public and the House, through the Assembly, it is a good thing. However, I just wanted to comment that I was a little disappointed this morning that all of the media coverage on CBC was quoting the Alberta Health Minister, Minister Gary Mar, and I would like to know if the Minister would make a commitment to put the same information and maybe more detail out to the public by way of a press release, as a result of his meetings. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 240-15(3): Details Of Additional Federal Health Funding

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many of the legislatures across Canada are in session and what happened late yesterday was when we concluded our meetings, many of us had plane times booked so that we could get back to our respective jurisdictions in time for session. So the press conference was delegated as it normally is to the Minister, the two co-chairs: the federal Minister and the provincial/territorial Minister which, in this case, was the Minister from British Columbia.

Mr. Mar had the benefit of soon to be going up for election and was staying in Vancouver to visit relatives, so he stayed around and was there to provide his input on the meeting. I've also met with press this morning and I will be doing a 7:15 interview tomorrow morning with Randy Henderson. So we will be spreading this information as best we can. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Question 241-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise because I have some concerns about some of the questions, about this lease with the Centre Square Mall downtown for the Legal Services Board; however, my concerns are not quite like the other Member. I actually feel completely dismayed by some of the suggestions.

We keep hearing about the 15-year lease, but it is a five-year lease. So I think we need to get some of these misleading facts out there so they are absolutely crystal clear.

Mr. Speaker, I hear that Legal Services Board is satisfied, so my question to the Minister is, could he clarify on the criteria and...

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Lee is rising on a Point of Order. Ms. Lee what is your Point of Order?

Point Of Order

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a Point of Order. I don't know exactly what section there, but I believe that we have a rule in the House that says a Member cannot suggest that another Member is providing any information that is misleading, and, Mr. Speaker, I just want to state that we have the right to ask the questions that we all feel strongly about, on the basis of the information we have.

I do not appreciate any suggestion by any Member in this House that somehow we are failing in our duty to give good information. So I respect the Member's right to pose his own question, but I really do not agree with the suggestion that either I or Mr. Ramsay were misleading any information in asking the questions that we have been. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee, for your Point of Order. Mr. Hawkins, there is a possibility that you were indicating maybe some misleading information. Would you like to withdraw your comments and rephrase your question? Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Can you say it again? I couldn't hear you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hawkins, the Chair is of the impression that you may have been implying that there was some misleading information being put out in the House. Would you care to withdraw your comments and rephrase your question?

MR. HAWKINS: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker, as long as I don't lose my first question. I would be more than happy to reword and take back that comment.

Mr. Speaker, I need to seek further clarification from the Minister, the Honourable Mr. Charles Dent, because the phrase gets thrown out there, in regards to how many years this lease may be and I am not really sure. So we need a solid answer to get this fact down. I also hear that the Legal Services Board is satisfied with this space in regards to meeting their criteria of storefront accessibility downtown and centralized. So are we meeting the needs of the Legal Services Board set out by their criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. You mentioned Minister Dent. Did you...

MR. HAWKINS: My apologies.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 241-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess just to set the record straight; from our discussions with the Department of Justice and the Legal Services Board, they are happy with the location that this new contract puts in place. It is a five-year lease, with options to renew. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 241-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I see it, as we were fighting for legal aid earlier in the year, the fact is we couldn't deliver the service because we didn't have the place to send them to get the service. So I think, in my view, that this service is being met. Now because there have been concerns about the fact that the other two tenders, tenderees if I may call them that -- I don't know what they are called -- contractors who wanted to bid on that space, didn't have a chance to appropriately put in a proper bid. So I guess my question is regardless of someone being late or not late, on time or not on time, was the question posed to those other people who were not successful in this contracting bid? Could they provide the services designed by the criteria of the Legal Services Board as mentioned by the criterion over and over again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Roland.

Further Return To Question 241-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the proponents that responded to the RFP were contacted to see if they could provide a suitable location that was requested by the Legal Services Board. So they were contacted and we were informed that they did not have the adequate space or suitable space as was being requested. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 241-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's been brought up that there could have been other options out there and maybe one of the examples could have possibly been let's put that in the Centre of Northern Families. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be able to say clearly if that could be considered a conflict because of dealing with both sides of the client issue of legal services issues? So could that have been considered a conflict to put it in a place like that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 241-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all I can say to that is we had worked with those that responded to the RFP and there were no other responses that came to Public Works and Services through this RFP process. So we worked with those that responded and went with the best option that we felt was there, and then, as that work was done, passed on to Justice for their look at it and there was agreement that this was the way to go. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 241-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the Minister is would he be willing to provide all Members a full briefing note on the process and maybe clarify any misconceptions and whatnot in paper to all Members? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 241-15(3): New Legal Aid Office Lease

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be prepared to put a briefing note together for Members of this House. Thank you.

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

Question 242-15(3): Closure Of Trapping Facility In Vegreville

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to address the trappers' process facility that was announced sometime this last summer. My question is to the Minister of RWED. In light of the announcement of the trappers' facility, what has the Minister done to help the trappers of the Northwest Territories in light of the announcement by the federal department? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 242-15(3): Closure Of Trapping Facility In Vegreville

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I last met with committee we discussed this and I think it was quite a concern to the committee, certainly for my department, and I know also a concern for federal Minister Ethel Blondin-Andrew, that the agreement on humane trapping standards that we have with the European Union and Russia was at risk without the research being done at this Vegreville facility. We met with federal Minister Dion to express our concerns and we were able to get the resolution of that issue for this year. There will be continued funding for that Vegreville facility to keep us in compliance, which I think is great news. We also have an agreement to sit down with the other provinces and territories and work out a solution going forward so that we can keep the borders open, which was really the intent in the first place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 242-15(3): Closure Of Trapping Facility In Vegreville

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell the House how serious this announcement is by the federal government in terms of closing the trappers' research facility in Vegreville to the northern trappers here in the Northwest Territories? I'm not too sure what kind of information went out to our trappers to know the seriousness of the closure of this

facility and what impact it will have on our people in the Northwest Territories, especially the trappers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 242-15(3): Closure Of Trapping Facility In Vegreville

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This agreement is very important for us and it was signed a number of years ago by the Prime Minister. The European Union was concerned, or said they had concerns with our humane trapping standards. We agreed that we would fund research as a country to ensure that we were doing the most we possibly could to find the most humane methods of trapping, and this Vegreville facility was where that work and research was done. Without the continued funding of this facility and in effect without us complying with the agreement, we were in real danger of having the EU step in and suggest to us that we weren't living up to our obligations and there was a very real risk that they would shut down their borders to Canadian furs. By and large, the majority of our furs end up going to the EU area. This would have been devastating to trappers across the country and, obviously, to trappers in the Northwest Territories. So I'm certainly glad that this has been resolved for this year. There's still a challenge for us to get funding for this going forward, but this is certainly, in the short term, a welcome step, and I know trappers across the territory will be happy with this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The time for question period has expired. Mr. Yakeleya, I will allow you a supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 242-15(3): Closure Of Trapping Facility In Vegreville

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of RWED if he would commit to talking to our northern trappers, aboriginal trappers, and to look at a game plan because this agreement is only for one year. I have trappers now who are going out on the land, and maybe they need to sit down with our trappers and really look at the significance of the closure of this facility that's in Vegreville and to let the trappers know the extent or the impact of such a closure if we are not successful next year in renewing that agreement with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 242-15(3): Closure Of Trapping Facility In Vegreville

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can do that. One of the things I've been very impressed with is our regional operations right across the territory. I know our regional staff are working very diligently with trappers. They make sure that they take in furs, they advance monies to trappers, we have a grubstake program to get trappers started at the beginning of the year, so we already have a lot of contact with trappers. Certainly, we can sit down and discuss the potential implications of not resolving these issues. They are very important to us. I would like to hear from trappers how they feel about the programs that we are implementing, because it has been two to three seasons now that we've had this new program, which we are very

happy with, by most accounts. So I would like to get some more feedback from them. I think our regional staff are best suited to conduct that and carry that out, and we'll certainly commit to discussing this with our regional staff and make sure they engage the local trappers in this regard. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 242-15(3): Closure Of Trapping Facility In Vegreville

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate the Minister for working really hard on our behalf and on behalf of the trappers. I would like to ask the Minister, would he inform or advise his workers in the regions on things like this that we need to do and, most importantly, to inform the trappers that are going out into the region because if this industry dies that's a crucial part of history dying with it. I guess I would ask the Minister would he look at this issue and have the trappers have a place in this department's vision and goals in terms of a long-term goal of this government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 242-15(3): Closure Of Trapping Facility In Vegreville

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will. Support to the traditional economy and for the traditional economy is very important for this department. We'll have continued discussions with committee about how we can continue to raise the profile of trapping. I think it's very important, and I agree with the Member that if a generation loses their trapping skills, it would be very difficult to get them back. We have to do what we can to make sure the people who want to live this lifestyle can do so. Mr. Speaker, obviously it's not an easy living. I think we recognize that. This is very difficult work, but I applaud the people who continue to make their living from the land and certainly the department is very interested in the support and I'm very interested in working with committee to make sure we can maintain a sustainable industry. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 38-15(3): Guidelines And Processes For Sole Source And Negotiated Contracts

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is to the Honourable Floyd Roland, Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board.

1. Please provide the detailed guidelines, policies or regulations that allow for a sole-source/negotiated contract to happen with a party that did not meet the initial RFP criteria for the contract in question.
2. What are the levels of due diligence required for DPW to consider a sole-source/negotiated contract for the robust, free and competitive market we have in Yellowknife? Please provide the details of the requirement in writing that must be met to go out and negotiate a sole-source contract.

Written Question 39-15(3): Budget For Legal Aid Office

Second question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Justice.

1. How much was budgeted for the new Legal Aid office?
2. How much is the expected lease payment over the life of the lease?
3. How much is the cost of lease improvements?
4. How much is the operational cost -- lease and equipment -- in relation to the dollars that will be allocated for the legal aid services: lawyer and support staff?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 40-15(3): Costs And Uptake Of Alcohol And Drug Programs In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In light of the recent opinions that drug and alcohol is the main issue for the potential pipeline development in the North, can the Minister provide the following answers for the Sahtu region:

1. What is the average cost to have a client participate in an alcohol and drug treatment program in Hay River?
2. How many clients in the past year, 2003-2004, have participated and completed the alcohol and drug treatment program in the North?
3. How many clients were referred to southern treatment programs in 2003-2004?
4. What are the costs for southern treatment programs?
5. What are the costs of a mobile treatment program in the NWT?
6. How many family treatment programs are there in the NWT that deal with alcohol and drug treatment programs specifically?
7. How many children between the ages of 14 and 24 received alcohol and drug treatment in the Sahtu?

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**Tabled Document 70-15(3): NWT Council Of Sport And Recreation Partners Implementation Plan, October 2004**

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners Implementation Plan, October 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 71-15(3): Status Of Women Council Of The NWT 2003-2004 Annual Report

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Status of Women Council of the NWT 2003-2004 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**Bill 15: Tlicho Community Services Agency Act**

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, October 20, 2004, I will move that Bill 15, Tlicho Community Services Agency Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Bell.

Bill 16: NWT Business Development And Investment Corporation Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, October 20, 2004, I will move that Bill 16, Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. 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: Committee Report 7, Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report, 2002-2003; Minister's Statement 48-15(3), Sessional Statement; Minister's Statement 49-15(3), Fiscal Update; Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act; Bill 8, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2004; Bill 10, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2004-2005; and, Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, with Mr. Ramsay in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have

Committee Report 7-15(3), Minister's Statement 48-15(3), Minister's Statement 49-15(3), Bill 7, Bill 8, Bill 10, and Bill 12. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHE: Mr. Chair, your committee wishes to consider Bill 7, Bill 8, and Bill 12. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): I guess we will take a short, 15-minute recess. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We are on Bill 7. I would like to call Minister Charles Dent for his opening remarks.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Bill 7 amends the Legal Profession Act to enable law firms to deal with trust monies that lie unclaimed in lawyers' trust accounts. This bill was developed at the request of, and in close consultation with, the Law Society of the Northwest Territories.

The legal professional is subject to very stringent accounting rules and obligations relating to trust funds. Literally every penny must be accounted for. Occasionally money is left unclaimed in a trust account, having been forgotten by a client or left unclaimed for other reasons. Examples include retainer money left over in a trust account after services are complete, or a reimbursement of monies that had previously been paid into court. Law firms try to track down the rightful owners of the funds, but sometimes it is not possible to find an owner because he or she has moved, has had a name change, or has died.

As the Legal Profession Act does not make provision for unclaimed trust monies, law firms must retain them indefinitely. This is expensive and complicates accounting. It also poses difficulties when a law firm dissolves or when a sole practitioner ceases the private practice of law, the firm or sole practitioner must indefinitely maintain a trust account holding the unclaimed funds. At present, law firms in the Northwest Territories hold approximately \$23,000 in unclaimed funds. The largest amount is close to \$2,000, but most amounts are very small, ranging from a few cents up to \$10.

This bill will allow law firms to pay over to the Law Society of the Northwest Territories trust money that they have been unable to pay out for at least two years because those entitled to the funds cannot be located. The Law Society will then hold the transferred money for five years. During that period, anyone entitled to claim the funds from the law firm may claim them from the Law Society. After the five-year period, the money held by the Law Society under this program will be transferred to the Northwest Territories Law Foundation and may be used to further the objects of the foundation.

In addition, this bill makes a number of minor amendments of a miscellaneous nature to the Legal Profession Act.

I will be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your opening remarks. I would like to ask the committee chair if she would like to provide comments. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we do have a comment to offer from the committee on Bill 7.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 7 amends the Legal Profession Act to enable law firms to enable trust monies that lie unclaimed in lawyers' trust accounts. This bill was developed...Sorry, I am reading the Minister's statement.

---Laughter

I was supposed to read the pink sheet; sorry.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act, on October 12, 2004. The committee would like to thank the NWT Law Society for its presentation, and the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The main purpose of this bill is to create a system allowing law firms to transfer unattributable trust monies to the NWT Law Society, which will then take responsibility for administering them. People who are entitled to trust money will still be able to claim it back while it is held by the Law Society.

After a period of five years, the Law Society will transfer any still unclaimed money to the NWT Law Foundation to further the objectives of the foundation. The committee was advised that an estimated \$23,000 is currently unclaimed in trust accounts held by law firms in the NWT. The bill will allow the Law Society to charge an administrative fee on any money transferred to the Law Foundation.

The amount of the fee is not set out in the bill. Rather, the Law Society will set the fee in its own rules. Representatives of the Law Society advised that they expect the fee will be on a percentage basis and that the final amount will be decided after consultation at their next annual general meeting. As an example, they indicated that the administrative fee they charge for administering the insurance plan is five percent per year.

The committee asked the Minister why people will not be entitled to interest on any trust money they claim from the NWT Law Society. The Minister advised that this is consistent with current practice, which is that no interest is payable to clients on trust accounts with law firms.

Members also asked for an explanation of why people will only have five years to reclaim trust money from the Law Society, as members are aware that the period is longer in some of their jurisdictions. The Minister advised that the legislation follows the Alberta model.

Finally, the committee would encourage the Law Society and the Department of Justice to ensure the general public and especially people in small communities who may not have Internet access, are made aware of the change in legislation and know where to go to reclaim trust money that might be owed to them.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 7. Individual members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 7, An Act to

Amend the Legal Profession Act, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Ms. Lee, for your committee's comments. I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in witnesses.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Proceed, Mr. Minister, and please introduce your witnesses, for the record.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the Department of Justice, I have Mr. Mark Aitken with me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. I will now go to general comments. Do members have any general comments on Bill 7?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Okay, we will do a clause-by-clause review of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Does the committee agree that Bill 7 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Bill 7 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Aitken.

The committee will now proceed to Bill 8. I would like to ask the Minister responsible if he would like to introduce the bill. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of Bill 8, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2004, is to amend various statutes of the Northwest Territories for which minor changes are proposed or errors or inconsistencies have been identified.

In order for an amendment to be included in the bill, it had to meet the following criteria: a, it must not be controversial; b, it must not involve the spending of public funds; c, it must not prejudicially affect the rights of persons; and, d, it must not create a new offence or subject a new class of persons to an existing offence.

Mr. Chairman, departments responsible for the various statutes being amended have reviewed and approved the changes.

Most changes proposed in Bill 8 are minor in nature and many consist of technical corrections to the English or French version of a statute.

Other changes have the effect of repealing certain enactments and certain statutory provisions that have expired, lapsed, or otherwise ceased to have effect.

The amendments are of such a nature that the preparation and legislative consideration of individual bills

to correct each statute would be time consuming for the government and the Legislative Assembly.

I will be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Dent. I would like to ask the chairman of the standing committee which reviewed the bill to make opening comments. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight met on June 25, 2004, to review Bill 8, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2004. The act makes minor amendments to a number of statutes. The committee asked for an explanation of clause 7, which will repeal the Economic Development Agreements Act. The Minister and his staff advised that there are currently no agreements under this act, and that any future agreements with the Government of Canada would probably not require legislation.

Members also asked for an explanation of clause 13, which will repeal the Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act. The Minister and his staff informed committee that the act is now unnecessary because of the new Cities, Towns and Villages Act, which came into force on April 1st of this year and which provides broader powers to municipal governments.

The bill includes several amendments that transfer to a Minister some of the Commissioner's authorities, such as making certain appointments. The Minister confirmed that these amendments will not result in any practical changes in how decisions are made, but will simply streamline and make more transparent the process for putting them into effect.

Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 8 to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 8. Individual committee members may have questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Dent, would you like to bring in witnesses?

HON. CHARLES DENT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort in the witness.

Thank you. Mr. Minister, please, for the record, introduce your witness.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I have Mr. Mark Aitken from the Department of Justice with me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Welcome again, Mr. Aitken. I will now move to general comments on Bill 8 from members. General comments on Bill 8. We will go to a clause-by-review of the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2004. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister to let us know when this Economic Development Agreement Act ceased to be required for the GNWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Minister.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could get Mr. Menicoche to restate the question and confirm that we are on clause 6.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Correct, we are on clause 6. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought you said clause 7.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): We will go back to clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 7. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the Economic Development Agreement Act that was created in 1988, at what point did we not require this act to be in existence anymore?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are aware now that RWED has advised us that there are no economic agreements currently under the auspices of this act, and it is unlikely that any would be made in the future. So I am not sure when the last agreement would have concluded, but the understanding is there would be a totally different kind of arrangement if this sort of economic development activity were undertaken in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: That's fine.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 13. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, in terms of the explanation on the Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act and why it is unnecessary. Can I get an explanation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Mr. Chairman, the new Cities, Towns and Villages Act gives specific authorities to the Town of Norman Wells that would mean that they don't need to have in place the Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act any longer. So they can pass this kind of bylaw under the CTV act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before that, they couldn't do that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they couldn't do it before under their municipal legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one question with regard to this. Not knowing much about it, does this have any impact on any other municipalities down the Mackenzie Valley or in the Sahtu region? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The repeal of this act will not have any impact, but now under the new Cities, Towns and Villages Act, all municipalities have the same powers to pass bylaws with regard to utilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all for now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): We are on page 7 for those following along. Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 8, clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 9, clause 21.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Bill 8 as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Does the committee agree that Bill 8 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Bill 8 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Aitken.

We will now move to Bill 12 and I would like to ask the Minister responsible, Mr. Dent, if he would like to introduce the bill.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Bill 12 is An Act to Amend the Education Act.

The key objective of the amendment to the act is to clarify and confirm the authority of education bodies to hire and employ superintendents of education outside the public service. This bill includes a consequential amendment to the Public Service Act.

The changes proposed to the act will support provisions of the Education Act originally intended when the act came into force in 1996, namely the education bodies would be allowed to hire and employ superintendents outside of the

public service. In fact, the hiring of superintendents outside the public service has been in practice with a number of our divisional education councils since 1996.

There has been some question, in recent years, how the intended provisions of the Education Act operate in light of the Public Service Act. The Public Service Act defines employment positions under divisional education councils as public service positions and does not specifically allow superintendents to be excluded from the public service. The issue was further clarified earlier this year, precipitating the need to align the two acts.

An Act to Amend the Education Act calls for an amendment to section 117(1)(m) of the Education Act to state that an education body shall employ a superintendent outside the public service. Consequential amendments to the Public Service Act are required to ensure the two acts are compatible.

Required amendments to the Public Service Act include amendments to schedules A and B. Schedule A is being amended to state that the reference to education authorities applies to every position other than superintendents, and schedule B is being amended to include superintendents in the listing of exempted positions.

This bill enjoys the support of the divisional education councils across the NWT and will clarify the relationships and responsibilities as originally intended when the Education Act was amended in 1996. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'd like to ask the deputy chair of the Social Programs committee, Mr. Yakeleya, to provide the standing committee's comments. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the chair's comments on Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, on October 12, 2004. The committee would like to thank the Sahtu Divisional Education Council for its written submission, and the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. The bill will amend the Education Act and make consequential amendments to the Public Service Act to provide that superintendents are not members of the public service.

The Sahtu Divisional Education Council wrote in support of this amendment, which will confirm their ability to hire independent superintendents directly answerable to them. As stated in their letter, this is critical if education councils are to be meaningful and represent their constituents effectively.

The Minister advised committee that the two superintendents who are currently members of the public service will not lose any benefits as a result of the change and will likely be protected through secondment agreements.

During the clause-by-clause review of the bill, a motion to amend the bill was made at the request of the Minister. The amendments extend liability protection to superintendents, provided they act in good faith. This clause is identical to other sections of the act which protects members of district education councils and

authorities, as well as other staff who are not members of the public service.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 12. Individual members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, as amended, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Now at this time would the Minister like to bring in witnesses?

HON. CHARLES DENT: Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): What is the wish of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the witness in, please?

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Dent. Can you introduce your staff, please?

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right I have Mr. Mark Cleveland, deputy minister of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. On my left is Rebecca Veinott, who is legislative counsel, Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you very much. What is the wish of the committee? General comments. Clause by clause. Bill 12, an Act to Amend the Education Act, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 2, clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): The bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Does the committee agree that Bill 12, as amended, is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Bill 12, as amended, is now ready for third reading. What is the wish of committee now? Mr. Menicoche.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Dent and staff, for coming in. Thank you very much. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. It is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole? Mr. Pokiak.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act; Bill 8, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2004; and, Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, and would like to report that Bill 7, Bill 8 and Bill 12, as amended, are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe. The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 9: Write-off Of Assets And Debts Act, 2004-2005

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 9, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2004-2005, be read for the third time. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Accountability and Oversight committee today at adjournment of the House and again at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. There will be a meeting of Caucus tomorrow at 10:30 a.m.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 19th, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
 2. Ministers' Statements
 3. Members' Statements
 4. Returns to Oral Questions
 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
 6. Oral Questions
 7. Written Questions
 8. Returns to Written Questions
 9. Replies to Opening Address
 10. Petitions
 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
 13. Tabling of Documents
 14. Notices of Motion
 15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
 16. Motions
 17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005
 - Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004
 18. Second Reading of Bills
 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Committee Report 7-15(3), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report, 2002-2003
 - Minister's Statement 48-15(3), Sessional Statement
 - Minister's Statement 49-15(3), Fiscal Update
 - Bill 10, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2004-2005
 20. Report of Committee of the Whole
 21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act
 - Bill 8, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2004
 - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act
 22. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 19, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:25 p.m.