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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Wednesday, October 20, 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. Before we begin, it gives me great pleasure to welcome in the gallery, the Consul General of Germany, Michael Schwandt. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 56-15(3): Tlicho Community Service Agency Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, it will be with great pleasure that later today I will introduce the Tlicho Community Service Agency Act, the final obligation of our government towards ratifying the Tlicho Final Agreement.

---Applause

This bill flows from a commitment made in the Intergovernmental Services Agreement, a sub-agreement of the Tlicho agreement signed last summer by Canada, the Tlicho and the GNWT.

I am pleased to note, Mr. Speaker, that as we move forward with this bill today, Canada is also taking the necessary steps to ratify the Tlicho agreement.

Yesterday, the federal government introduced and gave first reading to Bill C-14, the Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Act. Canada must pass this legislation for all three GNWT Tlicho bills to come into force.

The new Tlicho Community Service Agency replaces the Dogrib Community Services Board while keeping the many positive features of the existing board intact like the integrated delivery of health, education and social services. The model recognizes the advantages of using one system to deliver core programs to all people living in Tlicho communities. It ensures that all people receiving services will have a say in how the agency delivers programs. The Tlicho community governments, who will be elected by all residents, will select the membership of this agency.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Tlicho team for working so closely with the GNWT to develop this legislation. The ongoing intergovernmental collaboration that the new agency will require is an opportunity to further showcase how governments and our departments can work together. Their work has shown that practical arrangements can be made within the context of self-government to meet the interests of all parties. This is a true sign of partnership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 57-15(3): Establishment Of Official Languages Board And Aboriginal Languages Board

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce the establishment of the Official Languages Board and Aboriginal Languages Board. The establishment of these boards is a major achievement for this government with respect to our commitment to the NWT official languages and the revitalization of aboriginal languages.

During the last Assembly, the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act set out 65 recommendations. Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly sent a strong message by accepting all 65 recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, this government has acted on those recommendations by making changes to the Official Languages Act. A year ago, we made several improvements including: the designation of our 11 official languages; a requirement to report on an annual basis to Members; and, the requirement to form two new boards each with separate and clear mandates.

Mr. Speaker, the Official Languages Board has a member from each official language community and is tasked with reviewing official languages services as well as the effectiveness of the Official Languages Act and making recommendations back to my office.

The Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board has members from each aboriginal languages community and has the responsibility to make recommendations on government programs and initiatives to ensure the promotion and revitalization of aboriginal languages.

As Minister responsible for official languages, I look forward to the future growth and strengthening of all our official languages. I know that the individuals appointed to the boards are committed to seeing their languages thrive. I want them to know they have my full support as they carry out this very important work.

The inaugural meeting of each of these two boards is taking place today and tomorrow and, on behalf of the GNWT, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to each of the board members who has agreed to serve. These individuals were nominated by their language communities and it speaks to the strength of their commitment that their communities have chosen them. For many of the board members, strengthening their languages is their life's work. We appreciate their

investment of time and energy into working with the GNWT to strengthen languages.

The members of the boards are:

- Sabet Biscaye - representative for Chipewyan on the Official Languages Board and the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board;
- Vance Sanderson - representative for Cree on the Official Languages Board and the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board;
- Steve Petersen - representative for English on the Official Languages Board;
- Fernand Denault - representative for French on the Official Languages Board;
- Alestine Andre - representative for Gwich'in on the Official Languages Board and the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board;
- Beverly Amos and Marie Jacobson as alternate for Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun on the Official Languages Board and the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board;
- Lena Pedersen - representative for Inuktitut on the Official Languages Board and the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board;
- Lucy Jackson - representative for North Slavey on the Official Languages Board and the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board;
- Shirley Lamalice - representative for South Slavey on the Official Languages Board;
- Philip Rabesca - representative for Tlicho on the Official Languages Board and Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board; and,
- Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board members - Violet Sanquez for South Slavey and Mary Rose Sundberg for Tlicho.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. I am sure I speak on behalf of all Members of the House when I wish all of you well as you take on this very important work with official languages. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Minister's Statement 58-15(3): New Deal For NWT Community Governments

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, more and more, there is increasing pressure for community leaders to find innovative solutions to emerging challenges and issues they are facing. As a former mayor for the Hamlet of Fort Providence, I know that decisions made by local councils have an immediate daily impact on the lives of all residents. Now, as Minister of Municipal and Community

Affairs, my goal is to provide the tools to community leaders so that communities have the authority and responsibility to make sound decisions regarding local governance for their residents.

The Government of the Northwest Territories strategic plan identifies the key priorities and goals for the Northwest Territories for the next 10 years, many of which involve and impact on community governments. It is very clear that there is a reaffirmation by this government of the critically important role that community governments are playing in the political evolution and development of our territory. The strategic plan includes as a priority, support for greater community autonomy through the negotiation of a new deal with community governments.

This commitment by our government comes at a time when the federal government has also recognized the need to address the important role of community governments, and particularly to find ways to address the national infrastructure deficit at the municipal level. Now that the Prime Minister has achieved progress on health issues, he has made it clear that cities and municipal issues are the next priority. So far, as part of its new deal, the federal government has committed to a full rebate of GST for all municipal governments, which will bring an estimated \$1.8 million of revenue to Northwest Territories communities this year. There is also a proposal on the table to give a portion of federal fuel taxes to municipal governments. I look forward to meeting with the Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable John Godfrey, in mid-November with my provincial and territorial colleagues, to review in detail the federal government's new deal proposal.

At the territorial level, I am proposing to negotiate a new deal for Northwest Territories community governments that builds upon work that my department already has underway with community governments, including building capacity, working towards the implementation of aboriginal self-government, and leveraging additional funding for community infrastructure.

However, Mr. Speaker, the new deal also proposes some innovations that will empower community governments to a much greater degree. A cornerstone of the proposal is to move towards providing communities with greater control and decision-making over community infrastructure, including planning and decision-making for capital projects. This has been talked about for many years, and is a concept that was supported by the Special Joint Committee on Non-Tax-Based Community Affairs in the 14th Legislative Assembly. Another innovation is the proposal to provide more community governments with direct revenues from property taxation.

I was able to introduce the concept of the new deal to community leaders at the Northwest Territories Association of Communities annual general meeting this past June. In response, the association established a working group of mayors and leaders to explore the details of both our new deal and the federal government's new deal. I met with this working group in late September to discuss both concepts in greater detail and am pleased to report that the working group indicated broad support for the directions I am proposing. They affirmed that this is the direction that communities want to go in, and while there will likely be some challenges, comprehensive implementation plans that address potential issues will help address them. We agreed that it is critical to proceed

in partnership, in developing our proposal for the Northwest Territories and also in working with the federal government on the national proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and their working group for sharing their insights and expertise with us as they strive to promote the interest of all community governments. In addition, members of the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories have also been providing advice to my officials and I would like to acknowledge their invaluable contributions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development for their interest in this important initiative and I will look forward to continuing to work closely with Members of the Legislative Assembly as developments unfold.

Mr. Speaker, my department is in the process of finalizing the detailed proposal for the new deal for Northwest Territories community governments and I look forward to sharing this with all Members in the near future. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Before we go on, I would like to draw your attention to the gallery and the presence of the Consul General for Germany, Michael Schwandt, and his lovely wife, Dr. Heidi Schwandt-Boden.

---Applause

Accompanying them is our chief of protocol, Carmen Moore.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Emerging Crisis With Youth In The NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have an emerging crisis in the NWT related to some of our youth. All we have to do is turn our news broadcast on and we are hearing of new levels of vandalism, acts of violence and this amongst youth of alarmingly young ages.

There have been changes to the Young Offenders Act as precipitated by precedence set by the federal government. The move is away from incarceration towards other alternatives and a community approach to young offenders. This is well and good, but what are we doing to offer support to youth, families, and communities, who are experiencing firsthand the results of behavioural problems, substance abuse and the outcomes of chronic neglect?

We hear from Justice that the young offenders' facilities need to be reprofiled, because the utilization is not such as to warrant keeping these facilities opened and staffed. Such is the case with River Ridge in Fort Smith. We hear from law enforcement officials that their options are limited in dealing with young offenders. We hear from Health and Social Services that their legislation has the authority to apprehend these youth if they can catch them, where

there are supervision issues at play. We hear from our educators that they are ill prepared to deal with the issues of destructive and interruptive behaviour of students, not to mention crime and vandalism which gets brought right into the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, everybody in this House I'm sure would like to paint a very nice picture of the communities that they come from, but I am sorry to report that in Hay River this week we did have an incident where perpetrators of a violent act came right into our classroom in Hay River, took a child out of the classroom and assaulted them in the schoolyard. This is not something that has been present in the past and this is an emerging problem, and that's why I rise with this statement today.

Mr. Speaker, we have a big gap here. As a government we may be compelled to comply with federal legislation related to young offenders, but we need a made-in-the-north solution to reach out to these troubled youth, and when necessary protect them from their own behaviour and protect those around them in some cases. We have infrastructure sitting empty, such as the former NAS facility in Detah. We have underutilized young offenders' facilities. We need programming and treatment for youth to address the needs that are manifesting themselves in ever increasing ways in our communities. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. This is not solely a Justice or Social Services or Education or RCMP problem. This is a societal reality and this is a northern reality. How many more stabbings, murders, suicides, acts of violence and vandalism are we going to read about before we commit to establishing a comprehensive response to the needs of our communities related to troubled and at-risk youth?

Mr. Speaker, in the words of a very respected educator in Hay River, we, as a government, need not ask ourselves what we are going to do to these youth, but what are we going to do for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Need For Addiction Services

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to use my Member's statement today to draw some attention to a problem that is plaguing many of our residents. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is addiction.

I recently had the opportunity to help a constituent of mine, who has a very serious addiction to crack cocaine. This individual had no place to turn to address this addiction. Through the Minister's office we were able to find her a program in the South that will help her try to break this cycle of dependency. I would like to thank the Minister for his help in that. She will get help, but how many other people are out there suffering the same way she was, and are we doing enough as a government to address addictions?

As was evidenced by the large crack cocaine bust in Hay River two weeks ago, our children and communities are at continuing risk of falling prey to this terrible drug and the addiction that it brings. Crack cocaine, Mr. Speaker, is not the only addiction afflicting our people. Addictions can have a devastating impact, as we know, on families and communities. Whether it's cocaine, crack cocaine, alcohol, or the very dangerous crystal meth, we have to ensure that we have the resources and safety and support network in place to deal with these addictions.

I believe the Government of the Northwest Territories must seriously consider, once again, the need for a dedicated drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre. 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. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Residents are often sent south to get help far away from friends and family to support and encourage them. Money seems to be the biggest hurdle to overcome in making this happen. I would like to comment that during last fall's election campaign, many residents felt that a dedicated treatment centre was necessary and much needed. As a government, we need to prioritize the needs of our residents, with health and welfare being at the top of that list.

Why do we continue to operate a young offenders' facility in Inuvik with no clients, or a hospital in Fort Smith with hardly any patients? Mr. Speaker, we need to take stock of what our priorities are. I do believe this facility should be located in Yellowknife, as this is where half of our population resides. However, if it can be located elsewhere, so be it. The bottom line is we have to get serious with how we are dealing with addictions. Residents are putting their faith in us to make this happen. This is not an area that we can afford to fall on, but an issue that we must meet head on. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Concerns of Health Services

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to talk about health services. Prior to my return to Yellowknife for session, I received a call from a constituent in Sachs Harbour. Her husband was medevaced from Sachs Harbour to Inuvik and then to Yellowknife, after suffering a mild heart attack. She arrived in Inuvik to be with him the following day. When the patient was medevaced to Yellowknife she wanted to escort her husband, but was not allowed to because of an inability to speak English.

English should not dictate a need for escorts. She became aware of some instances where patients with less English were escorted outside of the communities. This person would like to know what is the policy for escorting patients.

Mr. Speaker, I called the Stanton Hospital on the weekend to find out how the patient was doing. They put me through to the intensive care unit and then the Transportation department and, to my dismay, they did not know where the patient was. This patient was waiting for bed space and was to be transferred to Edmonton. It makes me wonder, Mr. Speaker, how many other patients and their families have gone through this experience.

This concerns me, as well as my constituents. Mr. Speaker, I called again on Monday morning, and after being put through to a number of departments, I finally got word he was transferred to Edmonton, and I quote, "I believe to the Royal Alexandria." Families should be entitled to escort their loved ones, especially patients who have had heart attacks and are suffering from other terminal illnesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Congratulations To Graduating Students Of Deninu Kue

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to rise and announce that on September 25, 2004, I attended a graduation ceremony held in Deninu Kue, to recognize the significant achievements of three students. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Donavan Boucher, Andy Norn and Travis Guild in reaching this significant milestone, and encourage them all to proudly display their Grade 12 diplomas.

I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that this graduation class represents a 200 percent increase in the number of grads from the previous Deninu School. So I would also like to commend the principal, Mr. Moh Odeen, the staff of teachers, the Fort Resolution District Education Authority and many community members and organizations, in coming together to support and encourage the youth to stay in school and continue on in furthering their educational aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to state that this trend can continue as the number of Grade 12 students and Grade 11 students are now five; and the number of Grade 10 is sitting pretty at 25 students enrolled this year. With that I am optimistic that the community will become more aware of the importance of education for our youth and begin to realize some long-term benefits within the community as a whole. These three individuals' chances of gaining meaningful employment or access to meaningful job opportunities have now risen from 49 percent to 76 percent, according to the 1999 NWT labour force survey. To me, Mr. Speaker, that is a very significant, important improvement for our youth. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Safety Of Public From Bear Encounters

MR. ZOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, we all heard about the grizzly bear attack on two workers at Colomac Mine. This incident resulted in

serious injuries to two young men. Mr. Speaker, it could have been much worse. Those men are lucky to be alive today. It is very disturbing to me, Mr. Speaker, that there have been reports of this bear in the area and still no action was taken to protect these workers. They were not even allowed to have a gun with them at that time. Mr. Speaker, it was only a matter of time before something like this happened. Unfortunately, it is only a matter of time before it happens again. We are hearing more and more reports of grizzly bear encounters with hunters, outfitters, tourists and temp workers. The bears are also causing extensive damage to cabins and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, conservation and protection of species that are at risk is important, but is it more important than public safety? We have to do something to resolve this issue. The policies, regulations and laws we have now are not working. Not only that, we don't respect our Dene custom and values. Our culture varies from region to region, but traditionally, we would shoot a bear when we need to and then use the meat and the fur. There were no wastages, Mr. Speaker. Now we have to call RWED any time we shoot a grizzly and justify why we did it or we can get charged. The wildlife officers take the carcasses, and I don't even know, Mr. Speaker, what they do with it. More also needs to be done at the community level to educate the public, the residents and especially the youth on bear safety.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development have good bear videos, but are they available in aboriginal languages? How often are they shown in small communities? Mr. Speaker, later today, I am going to be asking the Minister what he is doing specifically to address this issue, and I hope his answers won't be just that it is going to be dealt with within the new Wildlife Act that is being proposed, because there have been a lot of promises made over the last number of years for things to be dealt with within the new act.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to conclude my statement.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of promises made over a number of years for things to be dealt with within the new Wildlife Act, but we are still waiting today. Nothing has been done by this government. Later on this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, I will be questioning the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Disparity Of Power Rates In The NWT

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With our winter season upon us, I wish to speak to the issue of power rates in the NWT. There continues to be great disparity in the rates charged to northerners for electricity. At the extreme, we have some residents paying 22 times the amount other people are asked to pay. That is 2,200 percent more. I would like to think, Mr. Speaker, that any democratically-elected government with a mandate to treat all of its citizens equally would be concerned with addressing such glaring inequalities. However, that does not seem to be the case with this government. I am concerned that this inequality is about to become even worse. Power rates are the highest in those communities that rely on diesel-generated power. Lately, we have seen world oil prices reach an all-time high, exceeding \$50 a barrel. Clearly, this will mean an increase in the price of diesel-generated power, which will create an additional economic burden for some residents, but not, Mr. Speaker, for all.

The current rate structure applied by this government penalizes people living in smaller communities. That is to say the way that the government conducts its business is creating a social imbalance. Electricity is an essential service, and yet we have people in smaller communities who must do without many things in life in order to pay their prohibitive electricity costs. I am concerned this imbalance will become critical and that it is going to have serious consequences for all of us.

In 2002, the NWT Power Corporation recommended the establishment of a single power rate across the NWT. This would have been in keeping with the system established by most other Canadian jurisdictions. However, the recommendation was rejected by the Executive Council of the 14th Assembly, and we continue to experience disparity.

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

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I would like to thank my honourable colleagues for allowing me time to conclude my Member's statement. I would like to remind you all that our current hydro-electric infrastructure was paid for by all the NWT residents with across-the-board rate increases. And yet, now, people in smaller communities who were asked to help people in the larger centres are being told you are on your own. It is too bad. Do we ask people in smaller remote communities to pay more for health care because it costs more to deliver? No, we do not. We understand such things to be a fundamental matter of fairness and equality in a democratic society. This government will claim they are treating people equally and fairly by subsidizing power rates in smaller communities. That is true. There are subsidies up to a certain point, which is to say that this government is willing to treat its citizens equally and fairly up to a certain point, but that is just not good enough. Partial subsidies that partially address the issues are not adequate or acceptable, Mr. Speaker. Social fairness and equality must be a matter of policy and law carried out with intent. It is not a matter of expedience

or convenience applied after the fact. I would like to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I will be giving notice of a motion in the House later today regarding this issue. Mahsi Cho.

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

Member's Statement On CIBC Run For The Cure

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as many Members are aware, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As it has for the last 13 years in Canada, and for the 11th year in Yellowknife, CIBC Run for the Cure was held on October 3rd of this year. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to also advise you that this year CIBC Run for the Cure was held in many of our northern sister communities including Inuvik, Iqaluit, Hay River, Rankin Inlet, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, and Fort Smith. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to you that Yellowknife has kept up with its reputation for breaking all records in terms of most money raised on a per capita basis. The final tally of money raised this year was almost \$200,000, at \$199,969 to be exact, and still counting. The students from J.H. Sissons, St. Pat's, and N.J. Macpherson alone raised over \$18,000. I know that my own school of Range Lake North raised a lot of money as well, although, due to their small size in numbers of students, they couldn't be in the top three.

Mr. Speaker, for the Women's Challenge Award, which is a category for any women's team consisting of more than 10 women, the team that raised most money again this year, and for many years before, is a team called Girl Power, which is a team made mostly of Grade 6 school girls headed up by Brooke Madsen and Dana Harris. They alone raised over \$12,000. Mr. Speaker, they have been winning for a number of years. I know that for two weeks they went out every day knocking on doors asking for money for this. They were raking in about \$200 a day. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to make special mention of Great Slave Helicopters and its team captain Trudy Wesnowski whose team won the CIBC Corporate Challenge Award for raising \$12,416. In individual categories, Trudy Wesnowski and Patti Olexin-Lang collectively raised over \$12,000.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many winners, sponsors, volunteers and many leaders behind this project that I could not name all of the names at this time, but on behalf of everyone in this House, I would like to send genuine and heartfelt thanks to all of those who were involved for another successful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Cleanup Of Contaminated Soils

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to make a statement about the radioactive contaminated soil mound in Tulita. To be more specific, Mr. Speaker, what I will speak to today is the infuriating federal bureaucracy that can't seem to get it together to take action on this issue.

From the 1930s to the 1950s, a 2,200 kilometre water transportation route was being used to move uranium and radium ore from Port Radium mine on the Great Bear, down the Bear River, up the Mackenzie River to Fort McMurray where it was shipped by rail to Ontario. The waterway system was called the northern transportation route.

During the investigation of the route in 1991 to 1993, over 47,000 cubic metres of contaminated soil was found to be located in the Northwest Territories alone. Some 11,000 cubic metres were relocated to temporary storage spots because they were dangerously close to where people were living. In Tulita, uranium contaminated soil was temporarily stored in the mound near the airport and, over 10 years later, the federal government still can't tell us what the plan is or when they will be able to move the contaminated soil.

I received a copy of a letter sent from the federal government to the RWED department. I have been working in the government for some time, Mr. Speaker, so I should be used to it, but when I read this letter I laughed out loud, not because the subject is not serious -- believe me, I take this issue very seriously -- I laughed out loud, Mr. Speaker, because this issue has been bouncing back between agencies, offices and commissions for so long, it makes our people very dizzy. The amount of red tape involved in doing something about this issue is ludicrous.

The issue is the responsibility of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission in accordance with the Nuclear Safety and Control Act, but it is managed by the low-level radioactive waste management office on behalf of the Government of Canada. However, the Natural Resource Council sets a policy, but the siting of the mound took place under previous legislation. So how long a mound can remain is a matter to be discussed by the low-level radioactive waste management office and Natural Resources Canada, and then there is the issue that the mound requires a licence to store nuclear substances. Mr. Speaker, I hope someone is explaining all of this to the mound.

I know this issue is serious and technical, and that it involves careful consideration, but, once and for all, I would like to see the federal government get their act together and stop batting this issue around from agency to agency. I would like to see the problem of the radioactive soil mound in Tulita dealt with immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development...

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I ask for 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. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I urge the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development to do all that is within his power to push the federal government to clean up the contaminated soil mound in Tulita as well as other contaminated

mounds in the Northwest Territories once and for all and as soon as possible. I will have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Resource Sharing Of The Diamond Industry

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We are fortunate in the Northwest Territories to have an abundance of natural beauty and natural resources. The challenge that we face on a daily basis is how to manage these.

Some 10 years ago, Members of this House had the fortitude and the foresight to see that we must receive a greater benefit from these resources. Specific to that issue, Mr. Speaker, was the diamond resource. Who would have thought that, 10 years ago, Yellowknife would be the diamond capital of North America today with a world-class cutting and polishing industry developed here employing about 160 people and worth an estimated \$9 million to our economy? Certainly not the Ottawa bureaucrats or the multi-national companies of the day, Mr. Speaker. It was the leadership of this House that saw these developments take place in the cutting and polishing industry. Surely 10 percent by value of their production was not too much to ask from the companies that were exploiting and profiting from this tremendous resource.

With the unveiling of the National Diamond Strategy, the Northwest Territories is continuing to demonstrate its leadership in this industry. The development of a strategy, of course, must continue to recognize the central position of the Northwest Territories and Yellowknife to the Canadian diamond industry. An example of this, Mr. Speaker, is our own Aurora College, which has established a Diamond Cutting and Polishing Program, recognized with a recent new national award for outstanding innovation and education.

We are beginning, too, Mr. Speaker, to realize the untapped opportunities that the diamond industry offers to tourism. Another added benefit is that aboriginal governments have concluded socioeconomic agreements that bring employment and education as well as economic opportunities to their regions, but these are insignificant benefits, Mr. Speaker, compared with the astonishing profits and royalties that are streaming out of the Northwest Territories.

Is it correct to say that four percent is not enough? Are those royalties to come to the Northwest Territories? Or is it better to say that 96 percent of these royalties and taxes going to the federal government is unfair?

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

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

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Resource development in the Northwest Territories must grow and expand in a sustainable and diversified way. If future generations are to have a legacy from these current developments, then this government and this House must continue to show the fortitude and the foresight to demand a devolution deal that recognizes a rightful share of the value staying here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Family

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because of an event that happened yesterday. The subject that I am going to talk about is certainly no stranger to this House. The sad thing is that it never gets enough air time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk today about the unsung heroes of this Legislative Assembly. Their names never get on any plaques. We never really talk about them very much. They never ever get paid. They very rarely get mentioned under any circumstance. Mr. Speaker, they are the backbone of every politician. Mr. Speaker, what I am really talking about is the commitment our families supply to us, supporting us to make sure that we are here to do what we have to do.

Case in point, Mr. Speaker -- and this is kind of why it touches me so much -- is the fact that yesterday morning I got up and drove my wife to work. I then took my son to his grandmother's house to drop him off because she is taking care of him right now. I rushed in to get here for a 9:00 meeting, another meeting at 10:30 and one at lunch. Guess what? We had session at 1:30 and, to no surprise, it went to 5:45, and here is another one, we had another meeting. That meeting went to 8:00. Now, I had a meeting that started at 7:00, so I went to that meeting at 8:00 and went until after 9:00, and it continues, Mr. Speaker. On my way home after 9:00 -- I walked home -- I had to visit a constituent on my way home.

I received some phone calls last night as well. Mr. Speaker, I arrived just in time last night to help my wife finish giving my son a bath, and I just got him dressed and put him to bed. Mr. Speaker, these are really sad things because I hope the day doesn't come that my wife has to card me at the door, but I can only imagine how difficult it must be on the Premier's family, whereas he travels so much. I am certainly glad I have the support that I do. I have to recognize the difficulties that we all go through, especially that our spouses must suffer from.

Mr. Speaker, every start of every Assembly, I bring down a photo of my son here as a reminder of why we are here. I would hold it up, but I have been in trouble before for holding things up, so...

---Laughter

I won't break that rule twice. Mr. Speaker, I am just going to quickly close to say special thanks to people like my mother, who takes care of my son, my mother-in-law, who is always there for us when she takes care of him, and

especially to my wife, who tends to get neglected because they realize the sacrifice and the importance of this job, and that we very rarely find precious time to get together to share the family time. But, Mr. Speaker, it is just important to bring this up, and I think that sometimes we forget about why we are here and how important it is and the support we get. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. 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. I'd like to recognize a young man who has been a Page in this House and who used to work for the former Premier, Vital Manual. Vital is up in the gallery.

---Applause.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 260-15(3): Treatment Options Available For Youth In Trouble

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my Member's statement today, I think that we are hearing more and more now of youth who are troubled and causing all kinds of incidents to occur in the communities in which they reside. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my statement, this is not just a one department or one agency or one community issue. This is a northern issue. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, what is in place right now for youth who are either needing treatment for addictions or needing treatment for behavioural problems. What options and tools are available for these youth in the Northwest Territories today? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 260-15(3): Treatment Options Available For Youth In Trouble

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member raised the issue in her Member's statement. It is a problem. It's a problem in the community of Fort Smith and we hear it on the radio from other communities where MLAs' communities are struggling with the issue and they have had community meetings, they have tried to get parents to the table, their community leadership, Health and Social Services, the RCMP, the teachers. It's an issue that plagues us all. We have, as a department, some resources available. In most communities we have social workers, we have mental health workers, community wellness workers. There are some programs in the North -- Trail Cross Territorial Treatment Centre -- that are geared to mild or moderate behavioural problems. We have arrangements

down south, four facilities as well, but those require some kind of arrangement where there's an agreement between the department, either a custodial agreement that goes to court to temporary wardship or voluntary agreement that would allow those services to be brought to bear. They are very expensive and they tend to remove the child from where the problem is, which is their community and their family. So with regard to the issue that the Member is talking about, those are fundamentally community issues where we have resources there to deal with them. If individual cases warrant that there be greater attention paid to individual children, then we have capacity to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 260-15(3): Treatment Options Available For Youth In Trouble

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, quite often, as the Minister knows, because I know that in his former life prior to being an elected official he had much experience in the area of children at risk and children who needed to be in care, as did I as well, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, in the cases of emergencies when he talks about community resources in the cases of emergencies and the incidents are occurring with younger and younger children all the time, the two drug busts that have been referred to in Hay River were two 17 year olds from British Columbia who were making crack cocaine in a hotel room and selling it to kids just as young as that and younger. There are incidents of emergency responses being required to deal with these youth. For example, in Hay River tell me how things would be handled. Does the Minister have firsthand knowledge of whether or not there is a placement, an adequate placement option available to officials, social workers in a community like Hay River given an emergency-type situation such as was experienced this week? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 260-15(3): Treatment Options Available For Youth In Trouble

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member raises an issue that there is no clear answer to. If she's talking about how do you deal with a near adult that is still 17 or 18, then I can tell you that it's not the normal practice to apprehend. If they are involved in a drug bust, if they are from out of province and they are found doing crack cocaine in their hotel room, then I would suggest the issue that the Member raised is one that is not clearly a child welfare issue and that there are other factors. If it's a situation where they are from out of province, then it is another situation. The normal course of events dealing with children and family tend to focus on children that are much younger. There is very little capacity to deal with teenagers, especially as they get close to being at the age of majority where they have their own rights. If it's not a young offender situation and it requires a voluntary agreement that they have to be a party to, then it is often very difficult to get their concurrence. So the Member has identified an area where there are no clear answers. There are resources when there is agreement by all the concerned parties, but those for the most part tend to be located down south. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 260-15(3): Treatment Options Available For Youth In Trouble

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So just so we understand then, if we are dealing with, for example, a 16-year-old who is, as you say, near adulthood and that youth does not want to comply with any kind of a structured plan of care or program, there is nothing that we can do short of them being apprehended by officials associated with justice because of a criminal act. So if they want to run, if they want to hide, if they want to just wreak havoc in the community, what you are saying is there are no resources available to this government or anywhere else to deal with these young people. Is that what the Minister is saying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 260-15(3): Treatment Options Available For Youth In Trouble

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that when you are dealing with teenagers, unless there is an apprehension and they are put into some kind of custodial agreement under the Child Welfare Act, it's very difficult if they are not willing to partake in whatever program is laid out to force them to that. People around this table know, and those that are old enough to have teenagers will know that teenagers are very strong minded. They have minds of their own. They also have their own rights as young adults. So there are places, there are some legal vehicles like apprehending, like trying to get a wardship temporary or permanent, but it's not the norm and it's very difficult to be effective. For example, if you take under the Child Welfare Act somebody that is 16 or 17 and put them in a facility and they decide, unless it is going to be a locked, secure facility, then chances are and history has shown myself and the Member will know as well, young people don't want to stay where they are placed, then it is very easy for them not to stay. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 260-15(3): Treatment Options Available For Youth In Trouble

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I made reference to gaps in the system. All right, let's go down to a younger age of a child. The child is not a ward of the GNWT, a major incident occurs. What resources do Social Services have at their disposal to deal with a child who is in virtually the custody of no one on a temporary basis until such time as court cases can be arranged for and applications can be made? What do we do in the emergency-type situations? Does he know? Are there foster placements? Are there group homes? Are there treatment facilities available with spaces, with vacancies right now as we speak, to deal with these children? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 260-15(3): Treatment Options Available For Youth In Trouble

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we have group homes, we have foster homes, we have arrangements. We have two facilities of our own as I have indicated: Trail Cross and the Territorial Treatment Centre here in Yellowknife. We have arrangements with a number of facilities in Alberta and in Saskatchewan. The issue that provoked this debate was the Member's statement and vandalism and what happens when children in the community are out of control. Their family is the first starting point.

We as a department have learned a hard lesson where if we just arbitrarily reach in -- because there's a concern and we yank the child out, put them in the permanent wardship, we ship them off because of something that they may have done that's inappropriate -- that has led in the past to a whole history of problems with permanent wards, children in systems that are there until they graduate at 18 out to the adult system, because that's all they've known is institutional life. So there are vehicles, but, very clearly, we have learned that to start to deal with problems at the community level with families and children you have to involve the children and the families and the community.

I've heard here and I know from personal experiences to try to keep the children in the communities and work with them to resolve their behaviour. We also know that if you take a child out of the community and put them in a facility, when they come out unless there has been some work done at the community level and at the family level then the chance that they are going to revert to the same kind of behaviour that got them into trouble in the first place is very, very high. So this is not just a simple issue of do we have enough places to park all the children in our communities that are causing us problems. There are some very, very fundamental issues to do with families and their role in this and how we work collaboratively to try to deal with these problems, recognizing the history we have and the mistakes we've made in the past with the child welfare system. Thank you.

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

Question 261-15(3): Cleanup Of Contaminated Sites In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of RWED. My Member's statement was about the federal government's unacceptable delay in dealing with the radioactive, contaminated soil mountain in Tulita, as well as other contaminated soil mountains in the Northwest Territories. I find it infuriating and I'm upset that the federal government has taken this long to deal with the issue and take action on it. Mr. Speaker, it's well past its time that this issue should be resolved. My question to the Minister is will the Minister approach the federal government Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Natural Resources to stop this jurisdiction's foolishness and meet with the Minister to finally resolve this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 261-15(3): Cleanup Of Contaminated Sites In The Sahtu

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the Member that I share his frustration and I think many northerners do as well. It's obviously a difficult legacy that we have from past industrial use, military use and other uses across the North, and across the entire country in fact, that we have a number of contaminated sites and these sites need to be cleaned up. The Member is right that there has been a lot of discussion between federal departments over the last 10 years. There was an acknowledgement and recognition in the early '90s that contaminated soil had to be dealt with in the Tulita area and, indeed, along the entire uranium transportation route. But there was a temporary solution found in Tulita with the express commitment to find a permanent solution. We are still waiting for that permanent solution.

I know after meeting with the community this summer -- the Member was there as well -- concerns were raised and I committed to the community that I would look into it, I would talk to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. I have been keeping the Member apprised of those discussions going forward, but we do need a comprehensive long-term solution. I have spoken to Minister Dion, Minister of the Environment, about our contaminated sites and the need to deal with them quickly, but I will commit to meeting with Minister Efford, the Minister of NRCAN who has the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission under him, and raise the same concerns. It is high time we had this deal addressed, especially, Mr. Speaker, given the fact that we're looking and hoping for devolution. We want to make sure that the parties who benefited from the extraction of these resources, mainly the federal government, clean up the mess. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 261-15(3): Cleanup Of Contaminated Sites In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister. The temporary solutions; I don't know the definition of the federal government's meaning of temporary. It's been 10 years we've stored it in Tulita and finally the Minister is willing to look at this on behalf of the people in the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister when will he approach these federal agencies. Can he give me a specific time when he will approach the federal agencies to start the action to clean up the mess as he said? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 261-15(3): Cleanup Of Contaminated Sites In The Sahtu

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is right. In the early '90s, this temporary solution and the creation of this engineered soil in Tulita was constructed, and 10 years indeed seems like a long time to be temporary. We do know that the low level radioactive waste management office has done a number of studies and surveys. They assure us that the contaminated mound poses no risk to people or the environment in its present condition. Nevertheless, obviously it needs to be cleaned up. There was a federal

government commitment to do that cleanup. As I said, I've just recently, in the last month, had a conversation with Minister Dion and at my next opportunity to meet with NRCAN Minister Efford I will raise this issue again. The Member is right; 10 years is not acceptable and indeed is not temporary. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 261-15(3): Cleanup Of Contaminated Sites In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, people in Tulita, with regard to the mound there that's close to the airport, have a lot of emotions associated because of the high rate of cancer in the region here. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister report back within a month that he has met with the federal agencies and that he will table letters in the House indicating that this has been done, including the response from the federal government at the earliest possibility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 261-15(3): Cleanup Of Contaminated Sites In The Sahtu

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll certainly report back the next time we sit and I can give the Member a progress update. Unfortunately, we won't be sitting in a month's time, but after Christmas I can certainly provide that update. Mr. Speaker, it's important for us to recognize that when we talk about the uranium transportation route, there are other sites where uranium product was transferred. Those sites are also a concern to us. We're concerned about the soils near Sawmill Bay, Bennett Landing and Tulita; we've mentioned that. Also at Fort Smith. So there are a number of sites that the federal government needs to pay some serious attention to and, with that in mind, I'll certainly urge the federal government to do that and I'll provide their responses to the Member when we next meet. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 261-15(3): Cleanup Of Contaminated Sites In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if a favourable response is not received from the federal government within a reasonable time, will the Minister consider legal action to force the federal government to fulfill its legal obligations and to do something for the people of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 261-15(3): Cleanup Of Contaminated Sites In The Sahtu

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a host of sites that need to be dealt with. It is, and I believe it is, and the government believes it is, a federal obligation to deal with those. Because of the ongoing devolution discussions, we have to get this squared away. As I've said, we are not interested in inheriting all the baggage from the resource extraction or baggage from past military sites. So we have to find a way to force the

federal government to clean up these sites. I think it was a positive step to see the amount of money earmarked in the recent budget for contaminated sites across the country. There were a number of contaminated sites in the Northwest Territories that got specific mention. I thought that was encouraging, but obviously we have to sit down and come to some agreement on a strategy as a government and I'd certainly like to engage committee in that discussion. I think we need a plan for all of the sites and I want to make sure that we don't get off track here by focusing entirely on proposed legal action over one site. I'd like to talk about a comprehensive strategy for dealing with all of our sites in the NWT, but, as I said, I would like to bring that back and have that discussion around that strategy with committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 262-15(3): Availability Of Northern Drug Addiction Services

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Michael Miltenberger. Could the Minister outline for us how an individual that is addicted to cocaine or crack cocaine is dealt with? Which processes do they follow and what help is there for them in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 262-15(3): Availability Of Northern Drug Addiction Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the programs we have to deal with addictions and alcohol and drug abuse are geared, as the Member knows, to trying to deal with the many complex issues presented by alcohol abuse and addictions. The issue of crack cocaine addiction is one where there is no discreet program. We have been dealing with them on a case-by-case basis. There are other jurisdictions where this is a much larger problem and they have set up special specific facilities and programs to deal with these particular situations. We've been dealing, as in the Member's case that he referenced in his statement, on a case-by-case basis to look for whatever services may be required. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 262-15(3): Availability Of Northern Drug Addiction Services

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if the Minister and his department have a strategy to perhaps come up with a program that is tailored to the residents of the Northwest Territories that they can seek some programming help while at home and not have to journey south, away from friends and family, to seek the help that they need. I'm just wondering if the department has any plans to try to put together some type of program tailor made to our situation here in the North. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 262-15(3): Availability Of Northern Drug Addiction Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the programs we have are geared to the issue of addictions; mainly alcohol, but drugs as well. I would suggest that on the degree and actual specific issue we're dealing with or degree of issue we're dealing with, that the services we have here are a starting point. If it's a situation where a person is thoroughly addicted and is into some kind of withdrawal program as opposed to dealing with the issues that may be assisting or feeding or causing her to support her addiction -- the family issues, the other issues that may be there -- then we have to look at that. But we do have resources here in Yellowknife and most other communities where we have workers. We have arrangements with the Salvation Army here, to name where there are some resources as a starting point to deal with the initial counselling and the kind of further treatment that may be required. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 262-15(3): Availability Of Northern Drug Addiction Services

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Minister for his response. With all the economic activity that's happening in the Northwest Territories, the jobs, the money that flows from that, I mean, a strong economy is a good thing, but it also has some detrimental effects on society as a whole. Drug addiction is one of those detrimental effects, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if the Minister has given any thought to the establishment of a dedicated drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatment centre in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 262-15(3): Availability Of Northern Drug Addiction Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the budget we do have about \$247 million. We're in the business planning process right now. It has been publicly announced that there are fiscal targets we are looking at as a government that there are restraint targets that we're trying to hit as a government. Health, in fact, has to shoulder their share of that burden. So, Mr. Speaker, within that context, we rolled out, two years ago, a Mental Health and Addictions Strategy in response to the Chalmers report, State of Emergency. We've hit year one and two. Year three is on the books yet to be implemented. We've charted out a course of action that focuses on the community level and that's still the intent. We do have our dedicated facility at Nats' Ejee K'eh, which is also undergoing a review in terms of the adequacy of the program that is there.

I'd also just like to make the observation that I've been reading some information on treatment and addiction services and that the research shows that the most successful and cost-effective interventions tend to be those that are geared around outreach programs, that

deal with the client in their environment with the other related contributing factors that may have, in fact, lead to the addiction. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 262-15(3): Availability Of Northern Drug Addiction Services

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there's a program and treatment centre in Hay River that deals with alcohol addiction, but my main concern is for drug addiction. It's becoming more prevalent every day in society in the Northwest Territories, especially with our young people. As I mentioned, the economy is growing stronger and people have more money; the problem is only going to grow. I'd like to ask the Minister if he will indeed have a look at setting up a dedicated treatment centre for drug addiction in the Northwest Territories. I think it's something that we have to pay attention to and it's important enough that our future depends on it and our kids are being affected every day, in small communities especially. It's high time we did something about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 262-15(3): Availability Of Northern Drug Addiction Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important issue and an important discussion. The reality is that, yes, there are drug addiction problems, but the alcohol abuse and the addiction problems caused by alcohol dwarf the drug problems. We are struggling to deal with the addiction issues related to alcohol. Are we trying to deal with the drug addictions? We are, as well. Are we prepared to look at that? Yes, within the fiscal limitations that we have. We have some plans already in place and if you quantify, the actual problem is going to be the first step, and then we have to decide if it's best to just build a facility to park people or is there a better way to deal with folks at the community level as we're trying to do with the alcohol and mental health strategy that we rolled out. Thank you.

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

Question 263-15(3): Sustainability Of The Diamond Industry

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon will be for Mr. Bell, the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, on the status of our diamond industry. It was an interesting turn of events earlier this year where, I think it was in the spring, Mr. Speaker, we saw the release of the National Diamond Strategy, but also in short order a response from the mining industry that challenged some of the things that we're doing up here. One of the specific ones was where the mining industry was claiming that our investment in the cutting and polishing industry was short-term unsustainable and the future was stark. Mr. Speaker, what is our government's position vis-à-vis the mining industry's assertion that our so far 160 people and \$9 million is not a worthwhile investment? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 263-15(3): Sustainability Of The Diamond Industry

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Obviously, we think this is an industry with a lot of promise. It's come a long way. I think it's important to remember that this industry in Canada, never mind the Northwest Territories and North America, is truly in its infancy. It's not many years now since the production began at the Ekati mine. Diavik followed. So we knew that there would be bumps in the road here. We think we have a sustainable industry. We think the factories that are operating now are doing a very good job. We do acknowledge that it is very competitive. We are dealing with labour, and the factories here have to be competitive with factories in other countries that enjoy much lower labour costs, but we think there are other advantages to being in Canada. We think there is a premium associated with Canadian diamonds.

We think we have no shortage of skilled labour across the country and the specific training programs can be put in place, as we've seen with Aurora College, to train our people. So we think this industry is here to stay. We think it currently adds value to the economy of the Northwest Territories and will continue to add value. The other piece, I guess I would say, Mr. Speaker, is that we have a broader vision that includes jewellery manufacturing and tourism, as the Member has already indicated, and we think this is just the start of a very valuable industry. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 263-15(3): Sustainability Of The Diamond Industry

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the success, as I've referred to in my statement, was the decision made 10 years ago by this government to stipulate, to demand that a portion of the production be reserved for cutting and polishing in the Northwest Territories. Here we have a successful or the start of a successful industry. Now, those deals were set up, I believe, with the people at BHP's Ekati mine and with the Rio Tinto folks at Diavik. What is the status, Mr. Speaker, of the agreements with Aber, which is the third producer, and with the De Beers mine yet to come at Snap Lake? Do we have a similar kind of agreement for leaving or allocating part of their percentage for northern cutting and polishing, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 263-15(3): Sustainability Of The Diamond Industry

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is right in that we have agreements with Ekati and with Rio, although I guess I would probably add that they're more like understandings as opposed to specific contracts that we knew would be very difficult to enforce. In fact I think we realized early on we needed the companies to want to leave the diamonds here. We needed them to be willing participants in this venture. For the most part, I think they have been. I think it's been very

successful. Aber is complying with the spirit and the intent of the value-added industry here, as the Member knows, by supplying the Laurelton factory owned by Tiffany. We've just completed, some months ago, the socioeconomic agreement with De Beers that speaks to how they will comply with the spirit and intent of this industry. The specific details are yet to be worked out and are confidential, so I hesitate to get into that in the House. We do have an agreement with De Beers that they will be involved in this industry in some respect, but those details have yet to be worked out. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 263-15(3): Sustainability Of The Diamond Industry

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I take it from the Minister's answer that we still don't have an arrangement with De Beers that we have any confidence in. Respecting that some of these negotiations are in confidence, I'd like the Minister to see if he could give us some more sense of comfort and security that indeed De Beers does believe in helping to invest in the northern economy. Are they at least onside with that principle? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 263-15(3): Sustainability Of The Diamond Industry

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are onside with that principle. As the Member knows, they made a number of commitments in this regard through the environmental process. I can assure the Member that those commitments are going to be lived up to and the CEAA will speak to that and does speak to that. The other point I would make is that I don't believe the De Beers board has made a final construction decision on the Snap Lake mine yet. We hope that's to come in the coming months and I think that will be a very significant event when and if we have that behind us. I assume that we will; I'm looking forward to that. De Beers is very interested in being involved in the Northwest Territories and in supporting this industry. I'm looking forward to their participation. I don't want to get into the details because they have been agreed upon in confidence and obviously there are issues that are very sensitive for De Beers in terms of the business being very competitive and I don't want to divulge any of that. I can assure the Member that they are very serious and very interested in being involved in this industry in the North and will be supporting the industry. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 263-15(3): Sustainability Of The Diamond Industry

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to confirmation of De Beers' participation. This is something that, I think, through the messages we're sending here, that we must not entertain a significant development here that is not going to result in a net benefit for the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, on the broader scale of the National Diamond Strategy, could the Minister outline just what benefit is coming to the Northwest Territories from

our involvement at the national level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 263-15(3): Sustainability Of The Diamond Industry

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to keep the responses as short as I can and save going into the history of how this came about from the Council of the Federation and just indicate that we've agreed on a number of thrusts in the National Diamond Strategy. There are several priorities that I think will greatly benefit the North. We know that it isn't the intention of the NDS to speak to the creation or the development of a multi-stakeholder body that will assist in coordinating and implementing the strategy. The issues in the strategy that are of critical importance to us, I think, are the development of a national certification or authentication process; also, development of approaches with respect to tax and fiscal incentives. Lastly, and I think this is a very interesting one, the development of a network of centres of excellence. A number of issues that are obviously relevant to the Northwest Territories is we're the only diamond producing jurisdiction in the country currently. We think there will be others in future, but it's important for us to be involved not only to share our expertise, but to make sure that the North benefits from this industry. Thank you.

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

Question 264-15(3): GNWT Financing Of Federal Responsibilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise with questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I'm going to bring to his attention the tabled document 2004 Report from the Auditor General that was tabled last week. Mr. Speaker, I read section three the other day and I was quite surprised -- which would be no surprise, I'm sure, to that Minister -- by the fact that the territorial government is bankrolling some of the responsibilities of the federal government to the tune of for the year 2003 almost \$25.4 million for services that the federal government is responsible for. The territorial government is on limited funding, Mr. Speaker, so this shouldn't be happening. Could the Minister tell me and this House how much is outstanding to date under the responsibility of the federal government for financing their responsibilities? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Is your question to the honourable Premier? Oh, Mr. Miltenberger. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 264-15(3): GNWT Financing Of Federal Responsibilities

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have an exact figure on hand, but I would like to note that the Member has raised a very important issue. It's one that I know the Premier has raised at his tables. I've raised it since my tenure as the Minister of Health and Social Services with the three federal Health Ministers that I've had the privilege of

working with over the last three years. It's also an issue for the other two territories. It's hopefully one of the issues that will be put on the table if we can get this working group together that there's funding been identified for out of the recent agreement with the First Ministers last September. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 264-15(3): GNWT Financing Of Federal Responsibilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear the actual number, so I suspect that will be a commitment to follow shortly, of course. Mr. Speaker, if I may entertain this a little further, noting section 3.4. This is an item noted many times by the Auditor General. We follow yearly agreements that have to get negotiated and when we finally get an agreement in place and money paid, they still hold back 10 percent. Mr. Speaker, is the Department of Health and Social Services working on an agreement so we get this done on a timely basis? Sometimes we have to wait over a year to start getting our money. Again, I reference that the territorial government is not in the position to bankroll the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 264-15(3): GNWT Financing Of Federal Responsibilities

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that impacts two federal departments: Health Canada as well as Northern and Indian Affairs. Yes, we have staff working, sometimes it seems almost on a full-time basis negotiating with the federal government over the outstanding claims, what they're prepared to allow and what they're not prepared to allow. Problems with the criteria that they have, be it on the non-insured health benefits side or under the medical services for Indian and Inuit people. So, yes, we have people working on this. It's a political issue. It's a structural issue. It's one that I hope over the coming months we can show progress on now that the federal government has come to the table in a much more proactive way. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 264-15(3): GNWT Financing Of Federal Responsibilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I may remind us all again, in 2002 we had almost \$35 million outstanding. Of course, by the time that got paid out, we had to have a 10 percent holdback. As I've said earlier, in 2003 we had \$25.4 million held back. Mr. Speaker, we've had the same Member of Parliament since 1988 with the Liberal Party. She's been in Parliament. She's been consistent. That would be the Honourable Member Ethel Blondin-Andrew. Since 1992, Mr. Speaker, it's been the same government in power. So that's a lot of years, Mr. Speaker. So my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. When does the day come that the Northwest Territories is taken away from the kids' table to the adult table? When does the day

come that we are stopped being treated like second-class citizens? Is it time that the Minister gets our MP to play a role in this progress so we stop funding the federal government's responsibilities -- because they clearly pay out -- so they know that they are responsible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 264-15(3): GNWT Financing Of Federal Responsibilities

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a national issue that affects all the provinces and territories. Anybody that does business with the federal government and administers programs for aboriginal people has this problem. So, yes, it has been dragging out. It is protracted. The pace is glacial in getting it resolved, but we all have some new tables. The Prime Minister himself has set up a table to meet with the aboriginal leaders. There has been recognition, and there is going to be a table for the aboriginal leaders to look at the health agenda. There has been a blueprint for aboriginal health that is going to be developed. As I told the Minister of Health in Vancouver, these are not money issues, these are structural issues, they are process issues. I agree with the Member. There is more and more attention being paid to this because it affects so many jurisdictions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 264-15(3): GNWT Financing Of Federal Responsibilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is not a new issue. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get this job done. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what we need to do as Regular Members or as a Caucus as a whole. Do we need to put barricades on the road and say no more resources out of the Territories until we settle some of these basic things? Does the Minister need a commitment from all Members to put forward a motion to get the support? What does the Minister need to get done in order to get his job done at the federal level? We need that money. It is time that we stopped bankrolling the federal government on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 264-15(3): GNWT Financing Of Federal Responsibilities

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if one was listening to the questions in this House about royalties and resource revenue sharing, this issue with the federal government, there is a whole list of issues that we have outstanding with the federal government that require resolution. We are taking proactive and aggressive or assertive approaches as we can as a government at all the tables that we are at. This is one of them. It is an issue that has national interest. It has national impact. So over the next few months, as I indicated to the Member, we hopefully will be able to show progress. Thank you.

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

Question 265-15(3): Level Of Police Services In The Deh Cho

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. Last week in this House, I raised the issue of the RCMP cutting one staff position at the Fort Simpson detachment. Since then, new information has been brought to my attention that has some bearing on the situation.

For several years up until now, the Fort Simpson RCMP detachment had been consistently manned by seven police officers. However, during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03, the RCMP received special funding from the Treasury Board to add an extra staff member. This was done in recognition of the fact that federal park wardens had lost their powers to act as peace officers. Some 10 extra police officers were hired across the country. Unfortunately, the RCMP did not add an extra member at the Fort Simpson detachment as required. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister is will he find out if the RCMP chief chose to cut a position at the Fort Simpson detachment at the time they received special funding from the Treasury Board? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 265-15(3): Level Of Police Services In The Deh Cho

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the RCMP establish staff positions based on need in the community, and I understand that the decision they made to change the staffing levels in Fort Simpson was based on their assessment of the requirements for maintaining public safety in that region. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the Treasury Board funding that the Member refers to, so I would have to request some information from the RCMP on how that funding was accessed and allocated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 265-15(3): Level Of Police Services In The Deh Cho

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, in effect, by not hiring an extra member at that time, the RCMP effectively cut one position already. Now we are being told that we are losing another officer and it is because of low crime statistics and other indicators. Is it just a coincidence that we are losing a second RCMP now that the RCMP has lost this special funding they never spent at the Fort Simpson detachment in the first place? Will the Minister speak with the RCMP on our behalf and see how it is that we not only lost one member, but apparently we lost two members at the Fort Simpson detachment?

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

Further Return To Question 265-15(3): Level Of Police Services In The Deh Cho

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the last five years, the complement in the

region has been increased in the Fort Liard detachment. I am not sure that in the region there has been a dramatic change. That may have something to do with the position the Member is asking about. I did commit already that I would check with the RCMP and see what I can find out in terms of any extra funding and allocations they may have made.

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

Supplementary To Question 265-15(3): Level Of Police Services In The Deh Cho

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, certainly this issue, as the Minister inferred, will turn out to be a good news story or a bad news story. The contention of myself and the residents of the Nahendeh riding is that we are the losers, Mr. Speaker. The reduction of service level will certainly impact us. Will the Minister speak to the RCMP on our behalf and lobby to change this? Will the Minister speak to the RCMP and not reduce staffing levels, but rather not fill this position as a cost-saving measure? Mahsi cho.

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

Further Return To Question 265-15(3): Level Of Police Services In The Deh Cho

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Members know, it is not my position to direct the RCMP as to where their staff should go. I have discussed the staffing situation in Fort Simpson with the chief superintendent. The chief superintendent assured me that the decision was made based on need across the Territories. Given the complement of members that we have in the Territories, the chief superintendent is confident that the decisions on where members are located are proper as they stand right now. The next time I meet with the chief superintendent, I will make sure that I advise him that the Member remains concerned about the staffing levels in Fort Simpson. Thank you.

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

Question 266-15(3): Staffing Appeals Process

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of FMBS. It is further to the questions that I asked yesterday, which I am afraid I wasn't as clear, so the Minister was able to get away with very vague answers. I want to re-ask that. Mr. Speaker, I learned recently that, in fact, the appeal process we have for the GNWT employees are very one-sided. It is a process that the union has not agreed to. It is a process where union representatives can't even sit in on an appeal of an employee and that there are lots of areas step by step in the appeal process that the union does not agree with, but it has not been able to make any inroads in changing to address that imbalance.

Mr. Speaker, in answering my questions yesterday, Mr. Roland said something like this, and I quote from unedited Hansard on page 1899, "The area of staffing appeals is one area that we recognize has some problems, and we're beginning work on potential changes to that process and setting it up so that we can, in fact, look at trying to streamline this and be a little more proactive and

productive in this area," et cetera. My point of this quote is, Mr. Speaker, when you hear something like "we are getting there" and "we are discussing the potential changes" and "we will look into it," we know that it will be 10 or 20 years before we see any action. So I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, what the Minister could offer in terms of any kind of concrete action he has taken as Minister of FMBS to address this imbalance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister responsible for the FMBS, the Honourable Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 266-15(3): Staffing Appeals Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the work we have done around staffing appeals has been a slow process, but we have been working on it. We are prepared to make some changes. We have listened to the AOC and its previous recommendations on the concerns that were around the whole issue of staffing appeals. So, number one, we have recognized that there are problems; number two, we have listened to the recommendations, and there was a report done which we are taking pieces of that and going forward with that. I can't give a date as to when this would actually come into play, but I am hoping to have a process established and an agreement from not only the Cabinet side but, as well, the Members of this House that this, in fact, is the right avenue. We have discussed this, put out some options, and informed Members of the potential changes that are coming up. Right now, I am hoping to bring a legislative proposal forward. We missed the timeline for this sitting, but hopefully at our next sitting we will have a legislative proposal that Members can look at and make comment on. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 266-15(3): Staffing Appeals Process

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Members, we get so much information that we are not always certain if we might have just missed something when something comes up. I believe the consensus in AOC is that this whole issue has not been brought to the committee yet. We are well aware that the government is moving ahead with centralizing human resources sections of the government, which is what most of the Members in this House wanted. Going by what people are saying on the street, it is moving forward. I am really thinking that any changes to the appeal process should be part and parcel of the overall changes that are taking place. Mr. Speaker, I am still not hearing any kind of time frame. Even before he introduces his legislative proposal, perhaps he could tell us about...He just said he talked to the Members. Is the union involved with this, for example? Maybe I could just go with that question. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 266-15(3): Staffing Appeals Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I should clarify, a legislative proposal was

developed. We were hoping to actually bring the legislation forward for this sitting, but unfortunately we weren't able to make that timeline. We will hopefully have it ready for the next sitting that we have as an Assembly. On the existing process, there is right now room for a union representative at the table. So there is that space right now when a member is going through a staffing appeal process; on the grievance side, especially, there is room for that. We recognize there are problems. We've worked on it. There were presentations made to AOC of the day. A legislative proposal has been reviewed, and we are coming forward with that actual legislation to make the changes hopefully in the next sitting. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 266-15(3): Staffing Appeals Process

MS. LEE: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I think what the Minister said about the fact that there is a union member in the appeal process, I think the Minister knows that that union member or whoever sits is not there to represent the employee who is going through the appeal. The union member is there as sort of a prop to make sure that the employee...They have a very negligent role to play, which is a complaint of the union. Second of all, Mr. Speaker, this government has not been forwarding a lot of legislative proposals. It hasn't been a crowded agenda. I believe that Members here are always ready. A legislative proposal could be dropped off to us at any time. I wonder if the Minister could commit to introducing this this week if he isn't ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 266-15(3): Staffing Appeals Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, for the record, we do not view union representatives or those that attend with employees or potential employees as props. They are part of a process. They are allowed to be there if requested by the member appealing. We weren't able to make the timelines for the legislation. It is still in the works, so we weren't able to finish it off. We were hoping to have it ready for this sitting. As I said, we will be bringing it forward during the next sitting we have. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 266-15(3): Staffing Appeals Process

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We could argue about this, but let me tell you the union has a designate, and that designate is not permitted to represent the appellant. I think that is another way of saying that it is a prop. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is not saying this, but I am getting a feeling that there is a process being worked out that may not be agreeable to the union. It is going to be maybe an opinion process that would not involve the employer or the union, it would just be a whole third-party process. Maybe that works for us, but I think the Minister is making a big mistake if he is not including the union in discussing this. Sooner or later, you are going to have to deal with that. He did not answer whether or not he is

talking to the union about this. Could I get a commitment for the Minister to meet with the union and discuss issues so that whatever outcome comes out is not going to be backfiring on them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 266-15(3): Staffing Appeals Process

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the union has been consulted in this process. The legislative proposal was brought forward to the committee. Based on that, we have gone ahead and drafted legislation. We are not quite finished with it. It is coming forward. As we feel, there has been consultation enough that we feel comfortable in developing legislation. Thank you.

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

Question 267-15(3): Funding For Fort Resolution Youth Centre

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I just wanted to ask the Minister about another initiative that the local youth in Fort Resolution have taken upon themselves to try and get resolved. I am talking about the youth centre that has been sitting on the blocks and has been boarded up for the last year-and-a-half. The community is still struggling with dollars to open up the youth centre. They were given \$80,000 about a year ago by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to buy a building, move it, and refinish it and open it up for a youth centre. Mr. Speaker, \$80,000 doesn't buy a youth centre in any community, especially when you have things like architectural costs which are required to meet government standards, taking out a big chunk of that money, leaving the community with a little pot of money which they really can't do anything with. It is either you have all the money to hire a contractor to do all the work, or you just don't do any at all. It seems like the youth in the community are basically taking on another infrastructure improvement initiative in their own hands, something that this government should be addressing. I just want to ask the Minister what his department is willing to commit as far as extra funding in the likes of \$40,000 to seeing this youth centre becoming a reality in this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, honourable Minister McLeod.

Return To Question 267-15(3): Funding For Fort Resolution Youth Centre

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the youth centre in the community of Fort Resolution is a project spearheaded by the community. We have made contributions to the community to the tune of \$80,000. We had made previous contributions where, I believe, it was \$14,000. At this point, if there is a problem, we would have to sit down with the community to see where the problem stems and where it lies. I am not aware where the problem is at this point. We would have

to get our staff in there to meet with the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 267-15(3): Funding For Fort Resolution Youth Centre

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I will just edify the Minister on what the problem is. The problem is that there is no money.

---Laughter

Basically, the money that was allotted to the community for this youth centre is not sufficient. Basically, their shortfall is to the tune of about \$40,000, Mr. Speaker. With the government painting a bright fiscal picture with all of the new developments at the national level, I don't see what the big issue is with scraping up \$40,000 within Municipal and Community Affairs multi-million dollar budget to help the youth in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 267-15(3): Funding For Fort Resolution Youth Centre

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the proposal that came forward to the Community Initiatives program involved other contributions. It was never intended for the youth centre in Fort Resolution to be built solely on MACA or government funding. If there is a problem, if other partners in this initiative have not been fulfilling their end, we would certainly have to take a look at it and to see where our contribution has ended up and whether or not our involvement is going to continue in this whole initiative.

There is a proposal that comes forward, there are criteria, and we have a limit on the number contributions we make in any given community, which is one per year. So we would have to review the situation and see where the problem lays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Time for oral questions has expired; however, I will allow you to ask your supplementary questions, Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a motion that I move that we extend the question period. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. VILLENEUVE: I seek unanimous consent to extend question period.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Villeneuve, for the record could you restate the motion please?

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we extend the question period. I seek unanimous consent to extend question period, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude question period. Are there any...to extend question period.

---Laughter

...to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period will be extended. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 267-15(3): Funding For Fort Resolution Youth Centre

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank my colleagues for extending question period.

Mr. Speaker, just getting back to some of the issues that the local youth and the residents have been working on in reference to the arena facility. Over the last year, the youth and the community council have been requesting extra dollars to help make improvements in the arena facility, which the youth again have taken it on themselves to make these improvements. They have allotted many hours and evenings to doing construction work themselves in the arena, Mr. Speaker.

When I went back there and looked at the improvements that they have made, it was like night and day, Mr. Speaker. This is all done through volunteer work using the few dollars that they do raise in school through bake sales and small school events. But, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that the youth should be burdened by the fact that they themselves are going to have to come up with something like \$40,000, in order to have their youth centre become useful and useable by them. So I just wanted to ask the Minister, through the co-management agreement that has been put in place in the community, how they intend to meet with the Deninu Community Council, the First Nations, and iron out some kind of solution where everybody can make a fair contribution to the centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 267-15(3): Funding For Fort Resolution Youth Centre

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the Member again that we are not the lead on the project in Fort Resolution for a youth centre. The community is the lead, there are other partners, it was the intention to secure industry dollars and other dollars. If there is a problem with raising their share of the money, we would have to take a look at it.

We have certainly contributed a significant portion to this project. We have contributed our funding through the Community Initiatives program for this year. If there is still a need, we would have to be considering it for next year; an application, for next year. At this point, if there is a request being made by the Member, we certainly will take that seriously and set up a meeting with the community. However, there has been no request from the community leadership themselves to meet with us on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Short supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 267-15(3): Funding For Fort Resolution Youth Centre

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the onus again would have to go back to the community members to file some kind of proposal, but I do believe

that they have made numerous requests to the department to get the extra dollars that they are required, according to the government standards, building codes, et cetera. There are certain dollars that have to be allocated to make this a reality and, of course, they fell short, and they've gone out to industry and the industry came back with a few dollars, but really still fell quite short in meeting the final objective of \$140,000, which basically is the number they are looking at.

So I just wanted to ask the Minister, if another proposal -- I'm sure it's going to be one on a pile of others that he's already received -- doesn't get ignored and thrown by the wayside, and saying well, you got your Community Initiatives dollars already, there's no use even talking about extra money. I just want to know how the Minister is going to address them this time because when they do....

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve, I heard a question there.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 267-15(3): Funding For Fort Resolution Youth Centre

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the proposal that came forward for request, we did fund. It sounds, by the nature of the Member's questioning, that there is a shortfall. We will certainly sit down with the community to discuss the shortfall. However, I would like to raise the point that we did fund our portion that was requested of us. It sounds like there is a problem with contributions that were to be made from other sources and we will have to revisit the whole initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 6, oral questions, the honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Question 268-15(3): Steps Taken To Address Encounters With Grizzly Bears

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, Mr. Speaker, I spoke about the recent grizzly bear attack on one of my constituents, and the increasing problems our hunters, outfitters, and others are experiencing with grizzly bears. My question to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is can the Minister tell me what are the steps he and his department are taking or have taken to curb the increasing problems we are having with grizzly bears? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister of RWED, the Honourable Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 268-15(3): Steps Taken To Address Encounters With Grizzly Bears

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first say, Mr. Speaker, that it was a very unfortunate incident that happened recently at the Colomac mine site, and very unfortunate that two people were injured. Although it's not the first time this has ever happened, I would say injuries of this nature and these encounters are

still relatively rare. Not to say that they don't happen, and many times when they do happen it's a very bad outcome.

The Member, in his statement, pointed out that we are involved and responsible for the protection of wildlife, but I would say that the department is very active in making sure we discuss with people in communities around the North, bear safety issues. We want to make sure that when people are out on the land that they are safe, whether they are working or hunting.

Unfortunately, in this incident the Member is correct; the people working did not have a gun at their disposal. A gun is not always assurance that the outcome will be successful either, certainly not for the bear, but it is no guarantee for the people out on the land. We have all heard of incidents where somebody is attacked by a bear and they are carrying a gun and unable to down the bear. So we work with communities, we have a web site that disseminates information about bear safety. The regional offices all have this information and meet with community members, and there are occasions when they are in schools talking about bear safety. I think that this is the kind of thing that we can do to ensure that when people are out in bear territory, they are aware of it and understand the steps that they need to take to be safe. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 268-15(3): Steps Taken To Address Encounters With Grizzly Bears

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my view, the response from the Minister is that it's not something new that he's taken to date. It's been an ongoing thing. The department has been doing everything that he said he's doing. My question was what steps has he or the department taken, because this problem has been on the increase for the last number of years, but nothing has been done in terms of changing the Wildlife Act or the regulations respecting grizzly bears. I know the department is working on a new proposed Wildlife Act and they're always saying they're going to deal with these types of issues within the new Wildlife Act. But because of the existing problems, are they going to do anything specifically to curb this issue that we're having with grizzly bears right now? He didn't really answer my question, Mr. Speaker, so I'd like to reiterate the same question to the Minister. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 268-15(3): Steps Taken To Address Encounters With Grizzly Bears

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is right; the development of the Wildlife Act and the Species at Risk Act is underway. It has been underway for a number of years and obviously it's a very slow process. We are required to consult with land claim organizations and with wildlife management groups. We want to make sure we consult with the entire public across the territory and all of the aboriginal organizations. It has been unwieldy. We have to make sure that we comply with the spirit and intent of all the land claim agreements, and we are aiming to do that. So, yes, I've run down a number of safety issues related to grizzly bears and black bears and the kinds of things the department has been

doing for some time. The Member is right; this is nothing new. There are increased encounters because we're spending a lot more time on the land because of the development, I think. It's not my intention to come out with new provisions related to grizzly bears at this point. We know that you can't sport hunt grizzly bears. I don't think that's what the Member is suggesting. If you are attacked by a grizzly bear, obviously you can kill it. You have to report to us that you've done so, but I think that short of the new wildlife legislation that we've been working on for some time and are implementing, I'm not aware of anything that the department is doing currently to change the rules around how we deal with problem grizzly bears. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 268-15(3): Steps Taken To Address Encounters With Grizzly Bears

MR. ZOE: Thank you. That's the point I'm trying to make, Mr. Speaker, exactly what the Minister has indicated. It seems like the government, although they know we're having increasing problems with grizzly bears, is not willing to do anything at this point in time. So my question to the Minister is would the Minister undertake to consult with all the regions pertaining to this specific grizzly bear issue to see what the best way is to resolve or manage or deal with improving the safety of the people on the land so it can be assured. Could he undertake that so he goes to the communities and talks to the band councils, the game councils, and seek information from them to see what the best way is or what else we can do to try and curb these increasing problems we're having with grizzly bears? If it happens to be to change regulations, so be it. But if they come up with a different solution, let's hear it. Why can't he do something specifically to deal with this particular problem that we're having with grizzly bears? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 268-15(3): Steps Taken To Address Encounters With Grizzly Bears

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can do that. We can certainly engage the regions in this discussion with communities. I think the first thing we can and will do is, in fact, confirm what the Member is suggesting, that there are increased incidents and run-ins of people with grizzly bears. I think that's the first step. But even if we find that there isn't a dramatic increase, I think it's always a good practice to sit down and talk about safety and safe practices when out on the land. Obviously, when you go out into bear country there are a number of steps that you need to take to make sure you're safe. Workplace safety issues, as well. I think in the case near Colomac, I'm not sure if it was a DIAND contractor, we need to be able to work with contractors and federal government departments to make sure that the kinds of things they require on their worksites don't preclude worker safety. I think that's very important. Where we can play an information dissemination role we'll do that, but I would be interested in working with the regions who, I think, are going to have a very good handle on the issues locally and see if there aren't other things that we can do besides the Wildlife Act and these kinds of things, see if there aren't other things we can do to increase safety. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 268-15(3): Steps Taken To Address Encounters With Grizzly Bears

MR. ZOE: Final supplementary. Mr. Speaker, if the department is going to undertake my suggestion that they go to the regions and talk to people and part of that consultation as to how we can curb this increasing grizzly bear problem that we have for hunters and outfitters and other people who are going out on the land, as part of their consultation I know that the department has videos pertaining to bear safety. It is my understanding that they're not translated into aboriginal languages. Could the Minister undertake to get these videos translated into aboriginal languages, so that when they do go talk to the communities they can also show these videos in terms of safety? At the same time, while he's doing that, maybe he could also get suggestions from various people who are knowledgeable about the grizzly bear, how they act and how they do things in traditional ways out on the land. Maybe we can find some solution to try and curb this problem we're having. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 268-15(3): Steps Taken To Address Encounters With Grizzly Bears

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll certainly find out what information and materials we have available to us and what materials we use in the regions. I haven't seen the videos. I'll take it that they exist and the Member has seen them. I assume that they aren't available in some of the aboriginal languages and we can look at that too, especially regionally. Obviously it's not relevant for all regions, but we can talk about where it is relevant. I think there's also some merit in looking at other materials and making sure that people in communities understand these. Obviously that's the idea behind communicating. We need to make sure that people understand the material, and understand the issues that we're discussing. If they can't, then it's certainly of no use. So we'll look at that, and I can discuss that with the Member and we can talk about the usefulness of having these materials translated. Thank you.

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

Question 269-15(3): Impact Of Youth Criminal Justice Act

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with my Member's statement earlier today with respect to youth in our communities that are having a difficult time with certain issues, I had posed my questions previously to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I'd now like to ask some questions to the Minister of Justice on the same vein, and I hope the Minister of Justice will show a little more enthusiasm for the problem and the issue because it is very, very serious and I don't want to hear oh, there's really nothing we can do, and it's a complicated issue. I know it's a complicated issue. Mr. Speaker, as a result of a change in legislation as federally mandated regarding young offenders, has there been a decrease in the number of young offenders

who have been charged and incarcerated in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 269-15(3): Impact Of Youth Criminal Justice Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue is complex and it does involve or require a cross-jurisdictional, or cross-departmental response. One of the ways in which we're hoping to deal with that is that the social envelope is working together to try and improve on case management so that we have people in the communities who work in the different departments, whether it's Justice, Health and Social Services, or corrections, to deal with people in a case management process. We are hoping that we are going to be able to improve the way in which we deal with people who have challenges that need to be addressed.

When the Youth Criminal Justice Act was first introduced in Canada, we did see a reduction in the numbers of people who were incarcerated. It was fairly dramatic. It was something that we had expected because when previous changes to the Young Offenders Act had been brought in, we saw the same sort of reduction in the incarcerates. What we expected was that as time went on we would see an increase in numbers, and to date we are seeing an increase in the last few months over what we had seen right after the passage of the act. So, yes, there has been a substantial decrease in the numbers of people incarcerated under the Youth Criminal Justice Act compared to the Young Offenders Act, but we are seeing a trend where the numbers are increasing in our facilities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 269-15(3): Impact Of Youth Criminal Justice Act

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if there are fewer young offenders being incarcerated, then it follows that there are other options and alternatives that are contemplated when these young people do run into trouble with the law. I would like to know what those alternatives are at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 269-15(3): Impact Of Youth Criminal Justice Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, most communities in the Northwest Territories have a youth justice committee and, for the most part, young offenders are diverted to that committee. So residents in the community can decide what is an effective and appropriate manner of dealing with offenders. What it takes is an agreement or acknowledgement by the offender that they have committed an offence, and a willingness to work with the community to deal with that offence in an appropriate way. That is by far the biggest option that we have for young offenders in our communities across the North, but we are also operating

programming for young folks at risk. For instance, in Arctic Tern the staff there have developed some programming that is offered to young people who are at risk but who have not been charged with offences, to try and help them develop the skills that it will take to keep them out of the facility. So there is some programming that has been undertaken from our department to try and deal with people like this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 269-15(3): Impact Of Youth Criminal Justice Act

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, by the way, I'm very encouraged to hear that the Arctic Tern is not just being used as a facility for incarceration, but that there is programming that is available as an alternative. That's the first time that I heard that. I don't sit on the Social Programs committee anymore, and that is very good news. That's the kind of innovative, responsive way we need to deal with some of these issues. We have to think outside of how things have traditionally been done. Is there any other programming, Mr. Speaker, available to assist communities besides the youth justice committees? Is there any other assistance through the Department of Justice available to help communities who are dealing with issues of vandalism and crimes committed by youth? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 269-15(3): Impact Of Youth Criminal Justice Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has funded one RCMP officer to work as a community liaison person. That position has worked with the organizations in Yellowknife, Inuvik and Norman Wells. So there is a resource available from the RCMP to help, for instance, organize committees like the Wellness Coalition in Yellowknife. So, yes, there are programs available to help communities. We generally try and work through the justice committees in communities, because we have the infrastructure there to focus our activities. So they tend to be the focus, but we do provide other resources, yes.

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

Supplementary To Question 269-15(3): Impact Of Youth Criminal Justice Act

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it would assure me if I knew that young people who are incarcerated in young offenders' facilities were able to receive programming which would address some of the issues in their lives which lead them to be in trouble with the law in the first place. I know, for example, through the young offenders' facility in Hay River, at one time they did have a very good lands program for the youth which is intended to rehabilitate them. I think it was a program with a considerable amount of merit. So could the Minister please tell us, for those who are incarcerated in young offenders' facilities, is there adequate programming now to help them deal with the issues that got them there in the first place? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 269-15(3): Impact Of Youth Criminal Justice Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a wide range of programming available for young offenders in our facilities, everything from schooling to special programs aimed at troubled youth. The On-the-Land programs have had a bit of a setback in the recent past because we haven't had enough people incarcerated to have the interest in going out to that kind of facility. The other problem we face, of course, is there has to be a willingness on the part of the person incarcerated to attend an On-the-Land program. They can't be forced to attend it. But we have, in the past, offered those kinds of programs and we do offer a considerable range of programming aimed at helping young people get their lives back in order. I know that I've personally spent some time in the school at the young offenders' facility here in Yellowknife, and I was quite surprised to see the range of programming that they can get involved in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 270-15(3): Status Of Somba K'e Lodge

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one more set of questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, there is a facility formerly occupied by the Northern Addictions Services in Detah, which I believe the government had some financial interest in and this facility has come back into the ownership and control of the GNWT. I'd like to ask Minister Krutko, Mr. Speaker, what is the status of the use of that facility at this time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, the Honourable Mr. Krutko.

Return To Question 270-15(3): Status Of Somba K'e Lodge

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Somba K'e Lodge, we are looking at proposals. We have put out calls to different non-government organizations and are considering looking at usage for that facility. It is presently unoccupied. We're paying somewhere in the range of \$300,000 for the operational costs of that facility. We are looking at proposals from different organizations, the people in Detah and Ndilo and also we've been approached by the Salvation Army. So we are looking at offers right now.

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

Supplementary To Question 270-15(3): Status Of Somba K'e Lodge

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at one time that facility was contemplated as an option for a family treatment centre for families that had issues with addictions. I was wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister would consider applications or proposals from

either NGOs or the Department of Health and Social Services for a use like that for that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 270-15(3): Status Of Somba K'e Lodge

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the facility is an asset of this government and because it is unoccupied, we are looking at offers right now. We're open to discussing this matter with anyone who wants to come forward with a reasonable offer. It is open for proposals for which they should maybe contact the president of the corporation to open a dialogue. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 270-15(3): Status Of Somba K'e Lodge

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister's corporation give priority consideration to anyone who would use that facility for programming related to alcohol and drug addiction? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 270-15(3): Status Of Somba K'e Lodge

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are open to finding a usage of that facility. If the Member is right, that facility was designed for an alcohol and drug treatment centre and the usage of it is restricted because of that. So the purpose of the facility does meet that goal. Like I said earlier, we are open to proposals and we'll definitely look at anything out there right now because we are paying for this facility. It's unoccupied and it is a \$300,000 cost to the corporation just to keep the place heated. We are open to proposals.

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

Supplementary To Question 270-15(3): Status Of Somba K'e Lodge

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand it has been vacant for a number of months now and the Minister has shared the kind of operational costs. I think it's been vacant for six months. If a good proposal for programming out of that facility were to come forward, how soon could that building be up and ready to go in terms of the structure of the facility at this time? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 270-15(3): Status Of Somba K'e Lodge

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I think that is one of the problems that we're having, trying to get this unit

taken over by someone else. We will not take on the responsibility of the O and M. We want to dispose of the asset by way of selling it outright, or basically working out some sort of a long-term lease agreement. But we do not feel that we can afford at this time to continue to pay for the operational costs and have that ongoing responsibility. We would like to offload that responsibility to an agency or organization to take that on.

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

Question 271-15(3): Somba K'e Lodge Use as Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger, and it goes back to some of the things I alluded to in my Member's statement in that we have pieces of government infrastructure that are underutilized. The Somba K'e Lodge is one of those pieces of infrastructure. That building is not that old and it cost the government millions of dollars to construct and build, and it has sat empty I believe for a lot longer than six months, as I had mentioned earlier.

The question I have for Mr. Miltenberger is why his department isn't looking at taking over this building, the Somba K'e Lodge, and turning it into a treatment centre. Initially when it started out, it was designed to be a treatment centre, and that wasn't too long ago, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 271-15(3): Somba K'e Lodge Use As Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, almost three years ago now we embarked on a plan, a Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. We had three separate years in it that we were going to fund, and it focussed on the community getting in wellness workers, mental health workers, some supervision, and looking at trying to beef up the support at the community level where the most immediate good work has to be done. That's the plan that we've been working off of to date. There is no money in the plan for any new major facility development at this point. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 271-15(3): Somba K'e Lodge Use As Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the big dollar item is already on the ground there in the Somba K'e Lodge, and it was built as a treatment centre. Maybe the Minister can tell me why or what happened along the road that today we find it empty and not being used as a treatment centre, and it wasn't that long ago, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering what the reasons are for it not being used for its intended purpose. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 271-15(3): Somba K'e Lodge Use As Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if my memory serves me correctly, there was an arrangement in the days of old with the Department of Health and Northern Addictions Services. Then there was a move to an arrangement with federal Corrections Canada, where Somba K'e was to be used to provide services to federal inmates, and the relationship with the Department of Health and Social Services was severed. Somba K'e was used for that purpose and it wasn't sustainable, and that relationship ceased and there were other avenues explored trying to keep the facility alive. But at that point, there was no involvement with Health and Social Services. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 271-15(3): Somba K'e Lodge Use As Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I gather from the Minister, it's all about money. I guess the question I would have for the Minister is when are we going to try to find some money to get a dedicated treatment centre, whether or not it's in Yellowknife. That's a perfect piece of government infrastructure that isn't being used and that could house a treatment centre, Mr. Speaker. We cry the blues that we have no money, but we always seem to find money for this and that, and I think the health and the well-being of our citizens should be our number one priority, Mr. Speaker, and I can think of a lot of things that this government spends money on that isn't that important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 271-15(3): Somba K'e Lodge Use As Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we can have the debate on where we should be putting a facility if, in fact, there was agreement to build one. If the Member is suggesting that we should scrap any further development at the community level and use that money for O and M for example, I think that would take some discussion. If he's suggesting that the Legislature is prepared to vote Health and Social Services new money, of course we would greatly accept that. But the debate on should we have more institutions as opposed to community infrastructure is one debate that we've already had, and we've charted out a course of action. There are, as I've indicated, no plans. I know that facility is sitting empty. We did look at it as a possible childcare site, and the costs were prohibitive for the money we had in the budget. When we looked at the possible conversion of that to a childcare facility, the cost was in the millions of dollars to bring it up to code and to make it suitable for use of children. So I don't know what it would cost if it was going to be restarted in a new capacity, but I do know that if it's going to be used for some new use, it's going to have to be brought up to 2004 code, specific to whatever the program use is going to be. If the experience we had on the child welfare side is any indication, it is in the millions of dollars on the child welfare side just to bring it up to code, let alone find O and M money. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 271-15(3): Somba K'e Lodge Use As Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we weren't really discussing a childcare centre, we're discussing an addictions centre. I think if the Minister adds up the cost that this government pays to send people south and the programming that they receive while they're in the South -- you know, the airfares and everything else that this government spends on addictions and sending people south -- I think they could come up with some dollar figure and try to equate that to operating this facility.

Also, Mr. Speaker, there has been some new money announced for health. Just as a final question to the Minister, is any of this new money in health going to be earmarked for addictions and addictions services here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 271-15(3): Somba K'e Lodge Use As Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the detail of new money is not available to any of us yet. But I can tell the Member, as I indicated earlier in this House, that year three of the mental health and addictions plan is there on the books ready to be rolled out, pending appropriate funding being available. If there is money for addictions, the intent would be to look at that third year, as well as clearing up some of the shortfalls and inadequacies that are there and that we have identified in the first two years as we rolled out the program to do with office space and those types of things. So if there is money available, definitely on my list, addictions and mental health is very, very high; in fact, it's a top item for me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 45-15(3): Youth Treatment Programs

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions are to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

1. How many NWT youth are in treatment?
2. How many spaces in total are available in the NWT for treatment of youth?
3. How many NWT youth are waiting for placement in treatment?
4. What programs specifically targeted at youth, apart from residential treatment, are currently in place?
5. Would the Minister and the Department of Health and Social Services support the establishment of

additional treatment programming for youth in existing infrastructure in the NWT?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Written Question 46-15(3): Costs Related To Wrongful Dismissal Suits

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Charles Dent.

How much has it cost the Department of Justice to date to correct wrongful dismissal suits at the North Slave Correctional Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The Minister of ECE, the Honourable Charles Dent.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 73-15(3): Legal Services Board Of The NWT 2002-2003 Annual Report

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have three documents I wish to table today. The first is a document entitled Legal Services Board of the NWT 2002-2003 Annual Report.

Tabled Document 74-15(3): Legal Services Board Of The NWT 2003-2004 Annual Report

The second, Mr. Speaker is entitled Legal Services Board of the NWT 2003-2004 Annual Report.

Tabled Document 75-15(3): Northwest Territories Coroner's Service 2003 Annual Report

The final document, Mr. Speaker, is entitled the Northwest Territories Coroner's Service 2003 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 13, tabling of documents. The Minister of RWED, the Honourable Brendan Bell.

Tabled Document 76-15(3): Agricultural Products Marketing Act 2003-2004 Annual Report

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Agricultural Products Marketing Act 2003-2004 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I decline tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 16-15(3): Appointment Of Sole Adjudicators

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 22, 2004, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the following persons be approved by the Legislative Assembly as sole adjudicators: Mr. Robert Clark, Mr. Robert Halifax and Mr. Dave Jones, QC. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Motion 17-15(3): Appointment Of Human Rights Adjudication Panel Members

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 22, 2004, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the following persons be recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for appointment as members of the Human Rights Adjudication Panel for the terms indicated:

1. Jamie Posynick, chair, for four years;
2. Ms. Shannon Gullberg, member, for three years; and,
3. Ms. Joan Mercredi, member, for three years.

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

Motion 18-15(3): Single Power Rate Zone

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 22, 2004, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the government direct the Northwest Territories Power Corporation to submit a one rate zone proposal as part of its next general rate application to the Public Utilities Board so that public consideration and discussion of this issue can take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 15: Tlicho Community Services Agency Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 15, Tlicho Community Services

Agency Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Bill 15 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The Minister of RWED, Mr. Bell.

Bill 16: Northwest Territories Business Development And Investment Corporation Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, 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. Handley. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 16 has had first reading. 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: Minister's Statement 48-15(3), Sessional Statement; Minister's Statement 49-15(3), Fiscal Update; Minister's Statement 54-15(3), Progress Report on Health and Social Services in the NWT; Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005; and, Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004, with Mr. Pokiak in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): I will call the committee to order. Presently we have Minister's Statement 48-15(3), Sessional Statement; Minister's Statement 49-15(3), Fiscal Update; Minister's Statement 54-15(3), Progress Report on Health and Social Services in the NWT; Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005; and, Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Chairman, we wish to consider Bill 14, Bill 13 and Minister's Statement 54-15(3) in that order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Does committee agree? At this time, I would like to take a 15-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Good afternoon. Welcome back after the short break. Before we took our break, Committee of the Whole agreed to deal with Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004. Before we move on, can I just give a little process that we will follow just to refresh everybody here if that's okay with committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): To assist members in dealing with Bill 13 and Bill 14, supplementary appropriation acts, I would like to outline the procedures that will be followed. You will find bills 13 and 14 and the detailed booklets of the supplementary estimates in your grey legislation binder by your desk. We will go to the Minister of Finance first for his opening comments on Bill 14. This will be followed by general comments on the bill by members. Once general comments are concluded, then the committee will determine if they are agreed to go to the detail of the bill. The Minister will be asked if he wishes to bring in witnesses. The committee will be asked if they concur to bring in the witnesses. The process for the detailed review of the supplementary estimates includes detail, page-by-page review of the document, which is behind the bill in your binders. Once the committee has concluded the detailed review, the committee will go to the bill for the clause-by-clause approval process. At the conclusion of the clause-by-clause consideration the bill will be reported and the same process will follow for Bill 13. That's the process that will be followed. Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. I now would like to recognize the Minister, Floyd Roland, for his opening remarks on Bill 13.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Supplementary Appropriation No. 4 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$2.478 million for operations expenditures for departmental over-expenditures.

The request is being made to comply with the authorization process for over-expenditures of appropriations occurring in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, as provided for in the Financial Administration Act. Details of the over-expenditures are as follows:

1. \$231,000 for the Department of the Executive, Financial Management Board Secretariat, that represents the over-expenditure caused by accruing a \$3 million loss allowance on the loan guarantee agreement with Sirius Diamonds NWT Ltd.
2. \$2.2 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment that represents the over-expenditure caused by accruing a \$9.5 million potential liability associated with current litigation being brought forward against the governments of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for previous abuse in the school system.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document with committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. At this time is it the committee's wish that the Minister bring in his witness or witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Roland, would you like to bring in your witnesses?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the witnesses in please? Thank you.

Thank you. At this time, Mr. Minister, you can introduce your witness please. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have with me today Mr. Lew Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Committee, general comments? Detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. At this point in time we will defer the clauses, but we will go with the schedule and go to page 5 on detail. Is that okay with committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 5, is that agreeable?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not able to find page 5, some people on this side. Is that the page that says budget and evaluation, is that page 5?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Yes.

MS. LEE: Okay, so it's page 5 of the schedule.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 5 of the 2003-2004 Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4 on the detail booklet. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you on that. There is \$231,000 for the loan guarantees associated with the default on the loan guarantee agreement with Sirius. Could I just get the Minister to state again why the government had to incur this \$231,000 in expenditures?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Can we get back in order here? Maybe I will just read out what we have, what we are going to deal with here, and then we will go to the questions.

Okay, the Department of the Executive, operations expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, budget and evaluations, not previously authorized, \$231,000. To Ms. Lee's question to the Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when this file had come forward and we realized that we had to account for this, we had built the \$3 million amount that would be the potential loss, but that went over our appropriation amount by the amount given of \$231,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: I'm sorry; I still don't understand why we had to pay out \$2.69 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It wasn't a matter of actually paying out. We had accounted for the potential loss and loss in this situation, but we did

not have the amount that was required for the total that was called on at that point. Maybe for more detail I'll have Mr. Voytilla give a going over of this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we at the end of the year become aware that there is a potential loss on an account or receivable and we can reasonably estimate how much that loss might be, then we are obligated to book it, to recognize that loss at that time. We did that with this particular loan guarantee, recording a \$3 million potential loss at that time. Now we already had some appropriation authority from our regular budget last year. So when we charged the \$3 million to our appropriation, we were only over by \$231,000. So if we hadn't have had to book that \$3 million, we would in fact have lapsed about \$2.7 million last year in our FMBS appropriation or in the Executive appropriation, which includes FMBS. So that's the answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: So is this another case of one of those not real money things? You're keeping it on the books. Is it a \$3 million liability we are putting down, or \$2.769 million we are putting in the books, or maybe it's \$3.231 million? I don't know. Keeping it on the books there is a liability, or is that money we have paid out?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Voytilla stated, when we realized there was a potential loss, we had to build in the numbers of what we estimated that would be. The money wasn't paid out at the time, but it had to be accounted for. In following the rules, once you make that accounted, it is a liability and has to be set off against our budgets, and we didn't have the full appropriation amount in our budget. That is why we are coming forward with this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you Mr. Roland. Thank you. General comments. Detail. Executive department, operations, Financial Management Board, budgeting and evaluation, not previously authorized \$231,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total for Financial Management Board Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$231,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$231,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. On to page 6, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$2.247 million. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. This is another potential liability amount that we are supposed to, I think, put on the books. But reading the explanation for this it's still quite puzzling,

because it is largely, I think, for now anyway, until we know what the outcome of the litigation might be, it really is an accounting exercise to make sure that we have some funds allocated as a potential liability. But I'm just wondering why we have to do this, because it seems to me that the litigation is in such an initial stage, that we really don't know what the final outcome might be; and why would anything like this be a liability for a certain fiscal year of 2003-2004 when it is so premature by all the evidence I have? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the accounting rules that come into play here are similar, the same as what we just stated earlier. Once we become aware that there is a potential loss here, or liability, we have to account for it in the year that it occurs. When we make that accounting for it, even though the money hasn't been spent, it is a liability and goes against our budget. Therefore, it would put us over that budget if we did not account for it, then it could be stated that we were understating our estimates. So we would run into problems around the accounting rules. This follows the accounting rules that we have to follow. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Okay, thank you. Am I correct in thinking that currently the GNWT is budgeting \$9.5 million as the potential liability, the settlement of this litigation, and that the department was able to find \$7.253 million but it was deemed that it was short \$2.247 million? So in order to top that \$9.5 million we have to now appropriate this \$2.247 million extra. I just want to know if I understand that correctly. Where does that \$7.253 existing funds come from? Is that money that we have already allocated over the years? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is right on the process of how things go and the numbers. Where the money came from was the money would have been lapsed by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, if it did not have to book this. Because it had to book this, it put them over the budget, and now by the shortfall that is showing here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Just one last question. Mr. Chairman, does the Minister have any information about how much more we would be required to allocate for this litigation? It appears that it's in a beginning stage, but I think there might be some information there that the Minister is aware of that would suggest that this would go multi-millions more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have provided here is our best estimate of what we could be on the hook for and our share of what the

total amount is. We're splitting this with Nunavut, based on the agreement that was reached when Nunavut was created on the division of assets and liabilities. So this \$9.5 million figure is our best estimate. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Department of Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$2.247 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Department of Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$2.247 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Can we go clause by clause now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. For now, members, I'm going to defer the clauses and go to page 3, schedule.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Schedule, supplementary amounts appropriated for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, vote 1, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$2.478 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total supplementary appropriation, \$2.478 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. At the present time we'll go clause by clause. 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): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Go into the preamble, Bill 14.

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 14 is ready for third reading, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Bill 14 is now ready for third reading.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): At this time I'd like to thank Mr. Voytilla for coming in. Thank you. Now we're going on to Bill 13. Does the Minister have any opening comments? Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$11.201 million for operations expenditures and \$5.450 million for capital investment expenditures.

Major items included in this request for operations expenditures are as follows:

1. \$4.7 million for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development for additional fire suppression costs incurred due to severe forest fire conditions in 2004.
2. \$2.5 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for emergency repairs to Samuel Hearne Senior Secondary School in Inuvik due to the collapse of the front foyer roof and fire in the gymnasium and industrial arts wing.
3. \$1.8 million for the Department of Health and Social Services for additional utilities and maintenance costs at the Inuvik Hospital.

The net operations funding request is within the 2004-2005 supplementary reserve.

The major item included in this request for capital investment expenditures is \$3.4 million for the Department of Transportation for renovations required for the installation of an explosive detection system and increased utilization of the air terminal building. Two million dollars of the total amount requested will be funded by the Canadian Air Transport Security Agency and the balance through new airport revenues.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): What is the wish of the committee? General comments. At this time we shall defer the preamble and the schedule and go on to the detail on page 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): At this time I'd like to ask the Minister if he has any witnesses to appear in Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Can the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the witnesses in, please?

Thank you. At this time we can proceed. I would like to welcome back Mr. Voytilla. Thank you. Going to details now. Page 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Department of Executive, operations expenditures, executive offices, special warrants, \$217,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Executive offices, special warrants, \$217,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Executive, operations expenditures, executive offices, not previously authorized, \$64,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Department of Executive, operations expenditures, total executive offices, special warrants, \$217,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total executive offices, not previously authorized, \$64,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Go on to page 6, Financial Management Board Secretariat, budgeting and evaluation, special warrants, \$226,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Going once.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Budgeting and evaluation, special warrants. Thank you. Financial Management Board Secretariat, budgeting and evaluation, special warrants, total Financial Management Board Secretariat, special warrants, \$226,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Financial Management Board Secretariat, budgeting and evaluation, total department, special warrants.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$443,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$64,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 7, Department of Finance, operations expenditures, treasury, not previously authorized, \$305,000. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this topic I would like to know more detail about what caused this increase in the premium first. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not an increase in the actual premiums. This is a shift between the Department of Health and Social Services over to the Department of Finance. We found in a case where Health and Social Services was doing some of its own insuring we felt that there was a savings by transferring it over and this is the amount that we feel...It's actually health boards, I believe, were insuring some of their own items. So we've pulled them into our total government insurance program, by that saving some numbers. But there is an added cost to their side of the equation and that's where we see the increase of \$305,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. The Minister mentioned that the government has folded in the insurance costs for health boards and I'm assuming that coverage covers the health centres and public buildings that health boards run. I'm just wondering, how does the government take care of the school insurance. Is the government at all responsible for educational boards' insurance?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just for the record as well, the committee will see where the savings part of this is in under the Department of Health and Social Services later on in this document. On the board side of it, the insurance part is the liability insurance. That's the portion that was folded in. I believe that we do in fact insure the education boards, except for Yellowknife No. 1 and No. 2, I believe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. I appreciate that because I know that the Members have talked about the rising incidents of violence and vandalism, and there are lots of schools in Yellowknife that are subject to all sorts of incidents of nuisance or violence or vandalism. There are lots of windows being kicked in, or where there are youth roaming around and stuff. I have had the occasion to talk to the school boards about the increasing costs and I know there is some concern about not only extra insurance premiums you have to pay for the extra cost of covering those damages, but also preventive measures they could take like putting in extra lights or extra infrastructure around the school buildings to prevent and

decrease incidents of vandalism around the school. I know that this is a very current issue and I guess I'm just wondering. My question first of all would be why is it that the GNWT does not cover the school boards No. 1 and No. 2? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, both Yellowknife No. 1 and No. 2 boards have their own assets because of the way they're funded, and they receive funds through the tax base here in Yellowknife. They operate quite independently of our process. We do have a funding arrangement with them, but on the way they've operated they are independent of us and sought their own insurance. We can discuss with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment if there's opportunity there to work together. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if the Minister could describe for us the types of liability and crime insurance coverage that this type of insurance covers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the detail I have is just the fact that it's liability insurance. The actual policy I haven't seen and if we want to get to that level of detail, I'd have to get an insurance specialist to look at it. But it is liability insurance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason that I mention that is I know we're spending a tremendous amount of money on a legal case that we didn't have insurance on. I know when I see the words "crime" and "liability" it just leads me to question if we have insurance in this area to cover us against crimes that employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories or the health authorities might make. That begs the question of why we don't have coverage for other departments and employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories, but I've asked this question before and perhaps the Minister could respond to that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have liability insurance for a number of different issues or situations that might arise. We have found there are certain types of liability insurance that we are just unable to receive any more because of the potential costs that are associated with the activities that may occur. It is difficult in some areas to get certain types of liability insurance nowadays. But for that which we are able to get, we've worked to ensure that our government employees, staff and people who work for the government are covered. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So to the Minister, if an employee of one of these health authorities committed a crime against a patient or another client of whatever service delivery that they're doing, would this insurance cover us against liability, Mr. Chairman, on the behaviour of one of our employees or an employee of the health authority? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, once again, we'd have to go to the specific policy that's in place and, as well, look at what may have happened in a situation. In fact, if the employee -- we're going hypothetical here -- were doing something that was absolutely outside of what they were supposed to be doing, then we'd have difficulty receiving that type of coverage. Again, it's almost a case-by-case situation with the actual policy that's in place, and we can try to get some of that information and share it with the members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The case that I bring up might be hypothetical, but there's a real case that this government has spent upwards of \$10 million on one that involved an employee of the Government of the Northwest Territories and, to be honest, Mr. Chairman, I want to ensure that the government does not have to pay out this type of money in lawsuits and litigation charges in the future. I want to make sure that we're doing everything we can to cover ourselves off against expenditures like that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated, we will get the policy and provide that information as to what is covered and what is not covered. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$305,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): On to page 8, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$300,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$858,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.158 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 9, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, negative \$19,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question on the \$19,000 return on maintenance costs for infrastructure assets. How many assets are we talking about with the maintenance cost for two communities of \$19,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount that is being returned is the amount that we would have transferred over to the community. I guess it would be those buildings that they had agreed to do maintenance for us. This is the Public Works side of the agreement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think the Minister really answered my question. I know it's Public Works buildings. We are looking at two communities, roughly \$9,500 for maintenance funding for Public Works buildings. I can understand why they don't want this work. I can understand why they don't even want the funding to carry out this work because there is probably just not enough. How many buildings does this include? Are there any schools involved or just maintenance garages or units or what? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should correct myself on this one. Public Works set up things through the other departments because Public Works used to do the maintenance. It was transferred over to the communities. In the case of Fort Resolution, there were six buildings and they varied from a warehouse where the maintenance was about \$1,800; an office warehouse was \$11,500; the forestry dock was \$2,000; wildlife warehouse was \$1,900. So there were the four buildings that were being maintained through an agreement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Asset management, total department, not previously authorized, negative \$19,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): On to page 10, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$1.494 million. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will stop here. I just would like to know who did the budgeting for the new hospital in Inuvik in terms of what it would cost for utilities and maintenance. Was it an outside firm or was it Public Works? Someone really dropped the ball on this to miss this budget by what amounts to \$1 million a year. If

it's one of our employees, they should be looking for a new job, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that amount was worked on by a number of groups. One would be the Department of Public Works and Services, one would be through Health and Social Services and, as well, the health board. I believe there was a consultant involved in working with the health board on the design, what it would take to operate and so on. There were a number of groups that were involved in this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister of Public Works has sent a message to the employees who were involved and the contractor who was involved. This is completely unacceptable, Mr. Chairman, that they could miss a budget by double. It's completely double what the original budgeted estimate was. If the letters haven't been sent, I don't know what the corrective action is or how you take steps to make sure this doesn't happen again, but it's completely ridiculous. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been noted and we will be sending the messages. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, want to bring attention to this. It's an astonishing amount of money; \$1.84 million. It's called forced growth for utility and maintenance costs for a brand-new building. It's \$1.8 million for one building. This is amazing that something as complex and sophisticated as a brand-new hospital and there aren't many kinds of buildings, Mr. Chairman, that are that advanced and complicated that this amount of money to run the place can slip through the cracks. Is there no fallback for this government in terms of the consulting or the planning or the budgeting that we could go back to some company or somebody involved in this to say a \$1.8 million boo-boo? I don't find it acceptable that the Minister can say the concerns have been noted and will be passed on. This is \$1.8 million more than we thought this hospital was going to cost every year. There has to be more accountability accepted, Mr. Chairman, than it has been noted and it's been passed on. Is there nobody that we can go back to to get some relief or somebody to share this pain? This is a big ouch, even though it is a hospital. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount in the document covers two years. The first year shortfall is the 2003-04 fiscal year and that's about

\$919,000. That's made up by the increase in heating fuel costs as well as power and a small amount for maintenance. The heating fuel cost increased substantially, the volume is almost 80 percent of what was existing. So there is a substantial jump. For recourse, for anybody else outside, I am informed that we have very little room for recourse. As to when the building was initially designed, estimates were put in place and then construction and coming into a full year of operation. So, unfortunately, we are faced with this and dealing with it. The first amount of \$919,000 makes up the shortfall for 2003-04. The remainder of \$925,000 would make up the shortfall that we would find in this year of 2004-05. At that point, it would go into the budget on an ongoing basis, so we shouldn't see any more of this nature. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: So, Mr. Chairman, the answer is we have essentially no recourse. There is no one we can go back to accept that some of us may be involved in the hit that everybody is going to experience or has already experienced because of higher fuel costs, but the volumes and the slippage on this one are really quite remarkable.

Mr. Chairman, I guess we will move on, but I would like to leave a comment and I relate this to a discussion I had with a Yellowknife architect awhile ago. When it comes to putting up a building, there is a bit of a shift or quite a large shift now in terms of the planning and the budgeting for these not to look at what it costs to build and open something, but what it costs to keep that building going over its projected lifespan. This might be something that if it's not already on the radar screen for our buildings and planners, perhaps we should be looking at it.

Perhaps we have an upside down way of looking at this. Sometimes, Mr. Chairman, in our desire to get something built, we want to get it built as quickly and cheaply as possible. Of course, it always looks good to be able to cut a ribbon, but sometimes we don't incorporate what is the eventual and overall hit to the taxpayer, which, over the lifespan of a building will be many, many times more than it cost to put up. So I think we oftentimes incur a false economy when we put up perhaps a less expensive building for the sake of getting it up, but we are not very cognizant of what it costs over subsequent years. We always think we will leave that up to somebody else to figure out. I wonder if this is an illustration of not using that philosophy. We are not thinking how much it's really going to cost us to keep this place going for the next 30 or 50 years, whatever its life design is. Then we would have a more representative, accurate and responsible way of assessing the cost of putting up these buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I would say I agree with the member's comments on lifecycle costs. It's something that we have started using as a government and will continue to use. I guess as a bit of a background, the project started in its designing and planning back in 1998-99 and initially started out as a P3 project and went to a standard government project. One of the things that could be happening here is back in 1998-99, rates for power and everything else were significantly different. I will just have

to state that, as I noted earlier, that we have taken note and we will be looking at dealing with the department in getting more details on the specifics. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not still clear as to what went wrong with this budgeting process. Was there something discovered in the two years that this has been in operation that something was not built in physically, or was it just a simple case of underestimating the cost of fuel, power and maintenance?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess ultimately we've come down to the fact that there was an underestimating of the consumption of power and the gas, as well as maintenance required for the facility. The facility did double in size from just over 4,000 square metres to over 8,000 square metres. The new code requirements for air exchange units and air cooling systems add more to the cost of the ongoing daily operation of that.

For example, from 2002-03 to 2003-04 the heating costs increased by over 80 percent. Power consumption has more than doubled from just over one million kilowatts to just over 2.5 million kilowatts. I guess the PY for keeping the place properly maintained, the hours increased significantly, so they had to add another position. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you look at the budget for 2003-04, the budget for the fuel was \$320,000, but the actual expenditure was \$620,000. That's \$300,000 more. It's almost 100 percent more than what was budgeted. For power, the budget was \$440,000, but the actual rate was \$1.018 million. That's \$578,000 more. That's more than 100 percent of what was originally budgeted. I think maintenance costs are maybe two-thirds of a PY more and one could see that as something that could happen, but for heating fuel and power, we are talking about 100 percent more than was originally thought. This is not an old building. This is a new building. It was architecturally designed, we spent millions of dollars designing it and building it and I don't think the fuel cost went up by 100 percent in a year. I still don't understand how that could happen. So in each year now, we have a \$919,000 deficit for 2003-04, we have a \$925,000 deficit for 2004-05 and we don't know what's going to come next year. I think this House has to get a better explanation, given that this is a new building. It's a state-of-the-art building. If they could not see how much fuel and power the building could consume, you have to begin to wonder what else do they not know about that building that's going to come back to bite us.

I need a better explanation as to why it was 100 percent or more than what was originally planned. I also need to know if the Minister is now budgeting \$1 million more every year for power and utilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I can say again is we will be working to improve how our estimates are formed around the consumption. The growth, as stated by Ms. Lee, has been around the consumption of heating fuel, as well as power. Yes, in fact, almost \$1 million has been added to the budget for Health and Social Services to provide for the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Next I have Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I will start off with asking the question why a new hospital that was twice the size of the old hospital was using a budget based on 2002-03 actuals of the old hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the numbers that were provided were using just actual costs in comparison to where the costs are now. So it wasn't budgeted based on the old hospital, just comparing the 2002-03 year with the actuals for 2003-04 to show the increases that occurred. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Then where would we find the actual budgeted amounts for that hospital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman; if I can have the member repeat his question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering where members might find the actual budget for that new hospital in terms of maintenance, heating fuel and power consumption.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd have to get more of a breakdown as to when the first full year of operation was in. They've just moved into it, so I believe the 2002-03 year was a partial year, 2003-04 was a full year. So it's hard to do the comparison, but I can get that information for members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks, Mr. Minister, for that. Being a new Member, it would be interesting to see what the real numbers are and have those two to compare these to. Just as a comment, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the same budgeting process isn't being used for the North Slave Correctional Centre

that just was moved into in March and we won't be faced with a supp sometime next year saying that the heating and the power and the maintenance costs on that are double of what was budgeted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I'm not coming forward in the next year with cost overruns in that area for that facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee. Oh, I'm sorry; Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Not Miss Lee. I hope that's not misleading.

---Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm just going to provide a comment. Recognizing how billings changed in the sense of elements they get more sophisticated. The fact that you have to move so much air, the fact that we're basically talking about hard costs, fuel and electricity, I mean, things change. So I don't know what more to say other than the fact that it's a bit of a surprise. Maybe we should be asking the Minister to provide us the accounting mechanism used, rather than complaining about the fact that the number is wrong. So maybe we should just get clarity on that. As far as accepting the number, I don't really think we have much of a choice other than accepting it. It's just a reality. Fuel costs more, power costs more and the fact new buildings have so much stricter codes, which require more energy and more whatnot in order to operate, in other words it's part of the reality of a new building compared to an old building. I mean, heating...(inaudible)...they are a phenomenon of the future and it's a reality of the present, so where we have various circulation and whatnot. I mean, some of these buildings didn't require that stuff. I think it's just a reality that it's going to cost more. So I guess the only question I'd have for the Minister is would he provide us something that demonstrates how they came upon this accounting mechanism to demonstrate whatever said number was the heating and supply costs and why we sort of fell short? What was the significant factor change? If it was just the factor that the power bill increased or the oil increased, then that's simple enough. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get the department to provide that information. We will look back at the estimates that were made and how they made them and provide that to members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins. Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I guess I have to jump in here now. It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, I guess the only way the Inuvik authority, in order for them to get extraordinary funding, is to put it under this category as forced growth. If I understand correctly, all these hospital authorities that we have like Stanton, Inuvik, Fort Smith and Hay River I guess aren't they all block funded, and if they run into a deficit then they have to eat their own deficit. It appears to me that in order for Inuvik to get

extraordinary funding and the government put it under this category as forced growth so that they can assist them in their heating and power consumption, am I not correct? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the boards are funded through a formula and an amount given to them on an annual basis and they do have to live within their budget. When they find themselves short, they can go to the department and try and substantiate why in fact they do need more funding, and in this case they have provided the documentation about the growth. The growth is in the actual area that's being presented in utility costs. I don't know if the Minister of Health might have more information on that, but that's what we've been provided and going on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: It will be interesting to see, because if it was, for instance, the Stanton Territorial Hospital getting into a deficit and their formula financing, even though they go to the department they would have a hard time to get extraordinary funding. A few years ago they had to shut down a whole wing just because they didn't have the money in their budget.

MS. LEE: That's right.

MR. ZOE: Now with a brand-new addition or a brand-new facility, we're giving them extraordinary funding for heating and fuel costs for the Inuvik Hospital. I don't think it's fair. It doesn't seem to appear that it's fair. There is no fairness there because a few years ago this is exactly what happened here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

MS. LEE: Good question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a lot of examples of where, in fact, we have used funds, or the health boards have come back for more funds and we've granted that based on substantiations they'd make. But for more details, if we can go to the Minister of Health and Social Services and he might be able to provide more information than I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Would the Minister of Health and Social Services like to expand further? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, the issue of this funding, first let me just say this, that we have just started to see the forced growth pressures of fuel costs and we haven't even really budgeted for it in any fixed number. But with the price of oil at \$55 a barrel, before winter's end our costs are going to be going up significantly as a government. In the case of the Inuvik facility, it was a new facility, there were estimates in terms of what it was going to cost and we had to prove what the costs were going to be to get funding. Normally funding is not given out on projections. Normally it's based on what your costs are, especially this forced growth and in this case Inuvik carried the cost and it ran a deficit, but until

we could demonstrate what the actual costs are for this new facility and as we heard the discussion for any number of reasons the costs were significantly higher. We've dealt with other authorities with deficits as well, where we've come back where there's been a legitimate forced growth that we could demonstrate and prove to FMBS and we've got funding. We expect it to live within their budget costs for normal operations, but when there are circumstances that either increase patient use, or things like meningitis outbreaks, TB outbreaks or this kind of demonstrated hard costs, then we can make the case and quantify it. It doesn't negate the issue of how did we manage to be so far off on the estimates. But that is the process that we've followed here. It's not a special deal for Inuvik, it's dealing with a legitimate, proven, demonstrated cost. How that cost resulted is clearly a subject of debate, but we have the numbers to show from power and utilities that these costs are the real costs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Roland, would you like to add anything else?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister stated, the way the process would work is, number one, the health board would have to go to the department for requests for any increases and substantiate it to them, and then the department would come to FMB for a request in any increase in funding and then substantiate to us. It does go through a couple of levels. But as we've heard here today, the concern about how the initial estimates came up, and I've committed to providing more detail as to what those estimates were and the basis of how they came up with those. So we will get that and provide that to members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I understand how the process works, but as my other colleagues have indicated, it's the Department of Health that deals with the formula funding for the hospital for Inuvik.

Now, surely your department must have got advice from whoever is building that new section, what the costs are going to be for O and M for a year. I'm not so sure how the formula funding pertaining to power and to heating is calculated. I don't know if it's square footage times so much fuel per square foot equals a figure and this is what you get for a year, or...I know normally what they do is they take the square footage and they multiply and they get a number. Obviously, the department has miscalculated and I'm surprised the board itself has not picked up the shortfall that has been calculated for them, saying this is your budget for this year and now after a full year of operation, they have to come back to you because the department, with their calculation and their formula financing, wasn't up to par.

Now you have to come back to us, you went back to FMBS and asked for that \$1.4 million, or now you're coming here to ask us to approve \$1.8 million. There is something wrong. As my colleagues have said, the people that are involved in doing these calculations...I mean, something has to happen. Something went wrong in the system where a figure of this magnitude should not have occurred. The advice that architects or whoever designed this building, in calculating O and M for a full year should have been provided to your department more

accurately. It seems to me that this scenario didn't happen. That's why we are in this predicament right now.

Right now we have no choice but to approve it, because it's based on actuals from last year and I'm going to support it. But the point I'm trying to make is that the officials at your department, not your department, Mr. Minister of Finance, but the Department of Health and Social Services that does all the calculation and stuff have to be made aware and put on notice that we are not going to stand for this type of miscalculation in an amount of this magnitude again. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health may have more detailed information to make a response. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. Pokiak): Next I have Mr. Villeneuve. I'm sorry, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's comments and sense of chagrin and displeasure of the members. If I could just add this to the discussion here, the budgets that are done for health boards, since I've become Minister, there is no formula like there is with education. There is a process that has evolved over time, through historic use and ongoing forced growth in increments. We are in the process of trying to develop a funding formula.

With regard to this hospital, we, as a client, bought a design, we agreed to a design that was going to deliver these wonderful things in terms of space, new facility, energy efficiency, all these good things. We proceeded with that design on that, with those built-in assurances that this is the project that was going to be delivered. The facility was built. The budget that was there was the same budget that had run the old hospital. Because we didn't have any actuals in terms of the cost, we were told run the hospital before you come back for extra money to see what it is going to cost. We found out very quickly that, yes, this is a spanking brand-new hospital and it's twice the size and, in fact, it has twice the cost, contrary to the initial assumptions that we assumed were there and the assurances that we thought were built into this design. So the issue of did we buy a pig-in-a-poke, something, who miscalculated, those are all legitimate questions. We got a building that we, as a client, paid for, that the government paid for. We were the client, and that's what the expectation was. So now we came back after two years with the demonstrated actuals that says yes, this design didn't quite meet the specks, it cost lots more, and it's an investment we have and we have to fund it. We don't have to fund it, but it is a brand-new hospital that is providing a critical service. As we have learned once again, I mean what's on paper and what you buy, what you think you're getting and what you get when it's actually built, in this case didn't quite match, significantly didn't match.

So here we are with the reality. We have a nice hospital that is delivering a service, but it's costing more to run than what was budgeted; significantly more. So it's not an issue of the health board should be required to eat this as the client. It's a brand-new building. If we were off the mark on program spending, I would say yes, because we screwed up, because our estimates were really bad. But

we are talking engineers, architects, all these hard service guys who do this for a living. So I'm sitting here as a Minister saying we have to come forward through the department, and I don't mind taking the lumps when I'm in the wrong. But we got a building that was built for us, and it does not deliver in terms of the efficiencies and here we are. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. POKIAK): Thank you Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Roland, would you like to add anything?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: No, Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Miltenberger and other responses we have made have covered this area, and we have committed to provide more information on the estimates that were used to substantiate the initial costs or estimations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. POKIAK): Thank you, Mr. Roland. I'm noticing what time does the committee wish to...Mr. Zoe, your time was up earlier. I recognize Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (MR. POKIAK): There is a motion on the floor, it is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister and Mr. Voytilla. Thanks a lot.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. 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 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004, and Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005, and would like to report that Bill 14 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. The seconder? The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins. 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. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 10: Forgiveness Of Debts Act, 2004-2005

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 10, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2004-2005, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 10 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MR. MERCER): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Accountability and Oversight committee at adjournment of the House today, and again at 9:00 tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 21st, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 17, Modernization of Benefits and Obligations Act
 - Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 15, Tlicho Community Services Agency Act
 - Bill 16, Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 48-15(3), Sessional Statement
 - Minister's Statement 49-15(3), Fiscal Update
 - Minister's Statement 54-15(3), Progress Report on Health and Social Services in the NWT

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

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

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

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 21, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

