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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, October 21, 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's Ruling

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, Members. Before we proceed at this time, I would like to provide my ruling on the Point of Order raised on Tuesday, October 19, 2004, by the Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen rose on a Point of Order during question period after a question and answer exchange between the Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya, and the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Michael McLeod. Mrs. Groenewegen's point is that the Minister, in responding to a question, was making reference to confidential proceedings in a standing committee and, in doing so, was inferring committee compliance with certain government initiatives. I quote the Member for Hay River South, page 1885 of the unedited Hansard: "I just wanted to raise a Point of Order that when Ministers share information with standing committees like GED or the Social Programs committee, that we are obliged to keep that information to ourselves and not to raise it in direct reference in the House in order to obtain information about future years' plans. I want to raise this because Minister McLeod was just referencing the plan and decisions of his department. He made reference to the fact that these were discussed with the GED and the GED approved them, and it makes it sound as if this was done at the initiative of a standing committee, as opposed to the department. We share information in the standing committees, but referring to decisions in direct reference to consultation of information that happened and communication that happened within the standing committee is inappropriate in the House."

In addressing this matter, I have reviewed unedited Hansard from October 19, 2004, in particular Mr. McLeod's response to Mr. Yakeleya on page 1883 and 1884, which gives rise to Mrs. Groenewegen's Point of Order. "Mr. Speaker, we have plans to invest \$40 million into the Sahtu roads. We have met with the GED committee and they have advised us that some of our investments should be moved. This year we decided to move \$1 million out of the Sahtu, we also are planning to move money out of the Ingraham Trail program into Highway No. 1."

In stating her Point of Order, I note that Mrs. Groenewegen did not identify which rule of the House the Minister infringed upon. In fact, strictly speaking, we do not have a particular rule stating that Members shall not refer to in camera committee discussions in the House. However, I draw Members' attention to Rule 2(g) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly which states that, "Point of Order means any departure from any written or

unwritten rule or custom of this Assembly or of parliamentary tradition." In this instance, the House is governed by its own precedence and long-standing parliamentary traditions and conventions.

In terms of precedence, I am guided by a ruling by Speaker Whitford on February 14, 2001, in which he rules: "It is an infringement of our rules and contrary to parliamentary practice for Members to refer to committee proceedings that have not been reported to this House. Specifically, I want to caution Members about making reference to what may or may not have been said or who may or may not have been in attendance in any proceedings or events outside of this House."

I am also guided by page 885 of Marleau and Montpetit House of Commons Procedures and Practices: "It is not in order for Members to allude to committee proceedings or evidence in the House until the committee has presented its report to the House. This restriction applies to both references made by Members in debate or during oral question period."

In this matter, Mr. McLeod is relating information respecting the plans of his department. He is certainly permitted to do so. He alluded to advice he received from the GED committee on proposed expenditures for roads in the Sahtu and throughout the territory.

It is relevant in this case to determine whether the advice Minister McLeod is referring to is specifically included in a committee report that has been tabled in this House. In reviewing the public reports of the GED committee, I can find no specific reference to the advice Minister McLeod referred to in the House on Tuesday. While the committee's Report on the Review of the 2004-2005 Draft Main Estimates does make reference to general discussion in committee about the allocation of transportation funding, there is no clear and specific reference to the Minister having received advice on the matters he referred to in the House on Tuesday. I can thus only conclude that any discussion must have taken place at an in camera meeting of the committee and was not specifically included in its report to the House. Therefore, I find that the Member for Hay River South does have a Point of Order.

As a cautionary note, I would like to take this opportunity to review a number of matters with all Members. While this matter has been addressed by way of a point or order, breaches of committee confidentiality can also constitute a breach of privilege, if raised as such. I again refer to Marleau and Montpetit from page 838 of their House of Commons Procedures and Practices, and I quote: "Divulging any part of the proceeding of an in camera committee meeting has been ruled by the Speaker to constitute a prima facie matter of privilege."

As your Speaker, I have noted a number of occasions during the 15th Assembly that Members, both Ministers and Regular Members, have inadvertently referred to standing committee business and issues in the course of debate and in question period. In some instances, the issues had been previously reported from committee, but often that has not been the case. Now that the matter has been raised and all Members are aware that such references are a serious transgression, I know my caution will be taken to heart.

I can also understand that often it is not clear what references are allowed and which are not. Certainly, when discussing multi-year planning initiatives, some of the information related to past or current years is likely public knowledge, whereas future plans and initiatives may not be. Clearly, the government has the prerogative to disclose matters not yet public as they see fit, even if these matters have been discussed with committee in camera. However, neither Ministers nor Regular Members are permitted to allude to in camera committee proceedings or evidence until the committee has included these proceedings in its report to the House.

As the current Point of Order illustrates, this is obviously a very difficult distinction to make in many cases, and it is not one the Chair can be expected to be aware of in all instances. Therefore, Members on both sides of the House have a duty to ensure that they are mindful of the rules about confidential information and are respectful of one another at all times. This is one of those areas where it might be prudent to err on the side of caution so that the privileges of all Members, individually and collectively, are protected.

Thank you, Members. Before I go on, I would like to draw your attention to the visitor's gallery. I would like to draw your attention to the presence of Captain Tony Evans of the HMCS Yellowknife.

---Applause

With Captain Evans is the HMCS sponsor, Pat McMahon.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 59-15(3): Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to provide Members with an update on the Mackenzie gas project and our ongoing preparations for this exciting development project.

As the Premier stated in his sessional statement at the opening of the session, the Mackenzie gas project is a key to the long-term strategic interests of the Northwest Territories and the socioeconomic future of our territory. The Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to this project, to the joint panel process established to review it and to ensuring that northerners fully benefit from this development.

The proposed Mackenzie gas project is an ambitious project that includes: natural gas gathering facilities in the Mackenzie Delta, a gas processing plant near Inuvik and

natural gas and gas liquid pipelines down the Mackenzie Valley to bring the production to market.

With the filing of the environmental impact statement and associated federal regulatory applications by the project proponents, the scope of the project has now been clearly defined and the formal approval process for the project has been set in motion.

The environmental impact statement is a large and complex document, totalling several thousand pages. Our focus in the short term is ensuring that we can conduct a full and thorough review of this document. To take advantage of the expertise that exists within both the GNWT and federal governments, we are working with our federal partners to establish a series of teams to review specific aspects of the filing. We have also established internal committees to coordinate the review and approval of interventions related to the socioeconomic and environmental mandates of this government.

The Joint Cabinet/Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Pipeline Planning Committee, established to provide advice and guidance to the government on the Mackenzie gas project, has met to consider how we can best prepare for this project. The work of the joint committee will focus on the issues, interests and priorities we must consider in our planning and preparation for this project.

As noted earlier, this government is committed to ensuring that northerners fully benefit from this project. One mechanism to ensure this occurs is through the negotiation of meaningful socioeconomic agreements with the proponents. Over the coming months, the joint committee will consider and advise on the priority areas that we believe must be addressed in these agreements. These priorities include employment and training, infrastructure, social impacts, community capacity and economic opportunities.

The proposed Mackenzie gas project has the potential to create enormous economic opportunities and benefits for the Northwest Territories. We are committed to ensuring that NWT residents can take advantage of these opportunities and that the proposed Mackenzie gas project is undertaken in a manner that is both environmentally and economically sustainable over the long term.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to these objectives, and we are taking the necessary steps to ensure that they will be achieved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 60-15(3): Labour Standards Consultation

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Labour Standards Act lays out employment standards for non-unionized businesses in the territory. It was first enacted in 1968 and was based on legislation in effect across Canada. It has been amended over the

years on a piecemeal basis and now the act is disjointed and at times difficult to interpret.

The Department of Justice has initiated a review of the legislation and later today, at the appropriate time, I will table the document: Renewing the Labour Standards Act of the Northwest Territories: A Consultation Paper.

Mr. Speaker, in this consultation paper, the department has identified proposed directions for reforming the act. Employers or employees are directly affected by this legislation and will be impacted by changes that might be made. This consultation is an opportunity for all who are interested to participate in the review of this important legislation.

The consultation paper contains a brief summary of the major components of employment standards legislation, proposes directions for change and poses questions for discussion.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice wants to hear from employees, employers and interested residents on the specific proposals and questions raised in the consultation paper. As well, any other comments or suggestions about employment standards in the Northwest Territories will be welcomed.

Copies of the consultation document are available by contacting the Department of Justice or visiting the website at www.justice.gov.nt.ca. Copies of the consultation paper are also being sent to unions, chambers of commerce and employers' groups.

Mr. Speaker, after the consultation process is completed, the Government of the Northwest Territories will review the comments and decide whether to proceed with reform of the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Minister's Statement 61-15(3): Appointment Of Pan-Northern Ambassador For The 2007 Canada Winter Games

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to provide Members with an update on the recent appointment of Mr. Jim Antoine as the pan-northern ambassador for the 2007 Canada Winter Games that will take place from February 24 to March 10, 2007 in Whitehorse, Yukon.

---Applause

2007 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Canada Winter Games. Nearly 4,000 athletes, coaches and officials and many thousands of other spectators and media from every part of Canada will travel to Whitehorse to experience the North during the games.

With the announcement of Mr. Antoine as the pan-northern ambassador, the three territorial Premiers and the Whitehorse Host Society are recognizing that this event will be a unique opportunity to showcase the Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories and the many things we have to offer the rest of Canada.

Initially, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Antoine's work will include coordinating the development of a pan-territorial agreement on a range of potential joint projects. These may include:

- a national marketing campaign featuring territorial tourism, cultural and economic development opportunities;
- a pan-northern torch relay;
- joint sport development programs for athletes, coaches and officials;
- joint promotion of northern artists and their works; and,
- television coverage of territorial athletes and performers.

Once agreement is reached on the joint projects, Mr. Antoine will lead officials from the three jurisdictions in implementing them over the next two-and-a-half years.

Mr. Chair, I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Antoine earlier this week and I can report that he is very enthusiastic about this opportunity and is committed to working hard to help all three territories reap the benefits of this great event.

2007 will be the first time the Canada Winter Games have been held north of 60, and will also be the last Canada Winter Games before the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver/Whistler.

Promoting the games will provide our territory with an opportunity to develop coaches, officials and athletes with a view to maximum northern participation at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

To do this successfully will require an investment and the three territorial governments will be seeking out partnerships as a way to realize our goals. The pan-northern ambassador will be approaching the private sector, including businesses and corporations in all three territories, to support this initiative. Mr. Speaker, we encourage all northern companies to work with us to make this event a success.

With his distinguished career as a former Member of this Assembly, a former Premier, a former chief and a prominent hockey player, Mr. Antoine will make a unique contribution to the success of the 2007 Canada Winter Games. I am very pleased that he has agreed to help all northerners take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I am sure I speak for all Members of this House on congratulating Mr. Antoine on that appointment.

Before I go on, I would like to draw attention to the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of Mr. Tony Whitford, former Speaker of the House.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On The Rightful And Fair Sharing Of Resource Revenues

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about the real and lasting benefits that need to be realized from resource development in the Northwest Territories.

Everyone knows that economic activity associated with a project of the magnitude of the Mackenzie gas pipeline is enormous. It would be the envy of any jurisdiction to experience the contracts, the jobs and the boom of such a development. Mr. Speaker, we, as northern leaders, representing the interests of our constituents, cannot be nearsighted. We cannot succumb to the temptation to support development that in the short time, on the good side, will supply us with business, service, transportation, exploration and value-added sectors, but in the long term, will leave us beholden to the goodness of the government-of-the-day in Ottawa for years to come.

We are understandably interested in ensuring that we are poised to benefit from these activities, but can be assured through things such as a sound socioeconomic agreement. It's the challenge of managing megaprojects and resource development to realize benefits along the way. We are poised and ready to participate in everything from pipe coating to the transportation of tons of materials and supplies needed to build a pipeline. I know the businesses in my riding that I represent are preparing for and anticipating the needs of industry but, Mr. Speaker, there is a bigger picture and it would be irresponsible of this government to ignore that bigger picture.

After the boom of construction, there has to be a lasting residual benefit and a legacy to northerners. That piece is a rightful and fair share of royalties.

---Applause

Without the underpinning of near-term predictable revenues from royalties, our ability as northern governments to provide program services and infrastructure is going to be seriously limited. We have already invested a huge amount in preparation for this pipeline and we have done it on our limited resources. Projecting into future needs based on the impact of population growth, social challenges and infrastructure demands, we are going to be seriously fiscally challenged. We need a vision and leadership that is farsighted.

The folly of being nearsighted reminds me of a story in the Bible in the Old Testament about two brothers. The older brother was entitled to his birthright, but because he'd come in from the land and he was so hungry, he gave up his inheritance for a small bowl of soup. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent from my colleagues to conclude my statement.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. As I said, the older brother came in from the land. He was so hungry that he quickly gave up his inheritance for a bowl of soup, which satisfied his temporary needs. He later tried to recover it as he wept with bitter tears, but it was too late. Just as the resources of Alberta belonged to and benefited Albertans, a fair share of the non-renewable resources of the NWT belong to northerners and the governments that represent them.

---Applause

The land and the resources on and under that land are the inheritance of northerners, and that, Mr. Speaker, is not negotiable. When Premier Handley and Minister Roland go to Ottawa, take this message: We were not elected to sell out the inheritance of this generation or generations to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Establishment Of A Permanent Trust Fund For NWT Residents

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is going to focus on an issue that I've raised in the House before and one that I am very interested in seeing addressed. The issue is the establishment of a permanent trust fund for the benefit of all residents of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, as we are all well aware, the Northwest Territories is on the verge of the development of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. Our government is spending a tremendous amount of money, time and energy on ensuring that we are ready for this megaproject, but the fact still remains that Ottawa will stand to reap the lion's share of royalties from this pipeline. Over a 30-year period, it amounts to over \$21 billion. Over that same 30-year period, the Northwest Territories will receive \$900 million. It just does not make sense. It does not make sense that we do not have a fair resource royalty deal with Ottawa. Why can't Ottawa start putting money away for us into a permanent trust fund so that all northerners will benefit? I'm tired of hearing why they can't. I want someone in Ottawa to tell us how it can happen.

The resources here are our resources. We deserve and must demand action from Ottawa. The state of Alaska, which has a population of over 600,000 people, has a permanent trust fund and, each year, pays a dividend to every Alaskan. It varies from year to year, Mr. Speaker, from \$1,300 to \$2,200. Imagine for a minute what a trust fund like the one in Alaska could do for us in the Northwest Territories where our population is just 43,000 persons. What an incentive for persons looking to move here -- teachers, nurses, doctors -- and those who are here would like to stay a little bit longer if we had something like that. It would be a bonus for living here, and the beauty of it is that everyone, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike, would benefit.

I know the Premier and the government continue their discussions with Ottawa, and everyone is hoping and

praying a deal can be struck. Until then, it is my contention that we don't take no for an answer from Ottawa and that we demand resource royalties be put in trust until a fair solution and agreement can be agreed upon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Maximizing Training Opportunities For Northerners In Preparation For Pipeline Development

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the recent application by Imperial Oil and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group to construct a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline and the formation of a joint review panel, it is imperative that this government maximize the amount of available training so that residents are ready for the jobs that will be available.

Past experiences with Dome Petroleum and the construction of the Norman Wells pipeline in particular have shown the Northwest Territories to lack qualified residents and the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of the oil and gas industry. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, most of the jobs associated with these two projects went to southern Canadians. Mr. Speaker, with the pipeline project beginning its regulatory pace, it is now time for this government to prepare our people for the many jobs in construction or maintaining the pipeline.

We have \$15 million for the Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership Program. We must, in all regions, start training our people. In the Beaufort-Delta, there is talk of a new Aurora College training centre. There is also talk of building a students' residence to accommodate students from Beaufort-Delta who may be taking training in oil and gas.

Mr. Speaker, there is a solution to the dilemma of available training and accommodation space. In my home town of Tuktoyaktuk, we do have the facilities to accommodate up to 40 students. I speak of the two industrial camps. If the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the board of governors of Aurora College can allocate some of the available training money sooner rather than later, we could have residents ready for meaningful employment in the construction and ongoing maintenance of the pipeline.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, if we are to realize a net benefit from resource development, I will emphasize that time is of the essence. Let's get moving on training our people so that this opportunity does not pass us by. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Environmental Concerns With The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to talk about some of the important environmental concerns related to the Mackenzie gas project.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express the importance of the Mackenzie Valley with regards to the cultural connection it makes between people from the Deh Cho, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, and the Inuvialuit. Mr. Speaker, the Mackenzie Valley contains one of the world's last great free-running river systems, the Mackenzie River. Aside from being the longest river in Canada, and the Mackenzie Delta being the largest delta in Canada and the second-largest wetland in Canada, the river also plays a significant role in regulating the circulation of the world's oceans and climate systems. Northern development, the magnitude and the scale of the Mackenzie gas megaproject, will have significant impact leading to the destruction and displacement of wildlife habitat, the fragmentation of migration routes for all of our waterfowl and the disruption of northern harvesting practices and traditions, just to name a few, no matter how many precautionary measures or regulatory regimes are put in place for their protection.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues may well be aware, there have been conservation efforts and commitments by this government and the federal government in developing a strategy which includes initiatives regarding the protection of a network of culturally and ecologically-significant areas which will be affected by the development of natural resources. I would still like to stress the utmost importance of assuring the people of the Northwest Territories, Canada, and even the world, that regardless of increasing developmental pressure and growing global demands for more environmentally-friendly forms of energy, we will not and cannot jeopardize the diversity and ecological integrity of our eco-regions strictly due to the fact that we owe it to our children, their children, and their children's children.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to end my statement with a quote from Alfred Taniton, an elder who met with the AOC members during our strategy session in Deline earlier this year. Mr. Taniton, with a short analogy, has always remained with me and surfaces in my mind every time the pipeline project is mentioned to me, and I hope that, by reiterating it today in the House, it will serve as a reminder to us all about the spiritual, cultural, traditional and integral relationship we have with our environment.

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

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

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

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to finish off my quote from the elder, Alfred Taniton. I quote, Mr. Speaker, "Mother earth and everything about her is as sensitive to developments and changes as humans are to illnesses and harm. When people scratch themselves and have their skin removed, it affects other parts of our body. Although time will eventually heal the wound, we are

always left with a scar which never goes away. This is what the pipeline will do to Mother Earth." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Need For Strong Leadership During These Crucial Times

MR. ZOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to speak about the need for strong leadership at this crucial time in the Northwest Territories' history.

---Applause

Land claims up and down the valley are either completed or under negotiations. Self-government will soon be a reality in many regions, changing the political landscape of the Northwest Territories. Leaders of First Nations groups across the Northwest Territories are in a strong position to negotiate the terms and conditions of future resource development in the best interests of their people.

Mr. Speaker, the potential benefits of the pipeline are significant. The Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline is expected to bring about the largest economic boom in the history of the Northwest Territories. The economic benefits for the Northwest Territories, if this opportunity is managed correctly, are enormous. Exploration of diamonds and other minerals continues. No doubt, there are more large-scale mining projects in the future.

Mr. Speaker, we are a territory that is rich in resources, and yet many of our people are still struggling to make ends meet. This won't change unless we can work together to negotiate the very best possible deals with resource companies and with the Government of Canada. I read the following quote about leadership not too long ago, and it struck me as how fitting for this time in the history of the Northwest Territories. I quote, "I started with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers." According to the premise of this quote, leadership in the Northwest Territories has done well over the last decade. There are now more leaders working in the best interest of the people of Northwest Territories than ever before. However, as we all move our agendas forward, it is crucial that we not allow ourselves to fall prey to divide-and-conquer tactics by outsiders. We might agree to disagree on some things, but we all have a common interest in making sure we, as northerners, are the primary beneficiaries of resource development.

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. 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: Mahsi, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, the Aboriginal Pipeline Group has made substantial gains in

terms of ensuring aboriginal people of Northwest Territories will benefit from the proposed pipeline. It is a great example of how cooperation can be successful. As leaders of the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Premier has the crucial leadership role in helping the Northwest Territories work together for the benefit of our territory. Time is of essence, Mr. Speaker. If leaders across the Northwest Territories do not rise to the opportunity and come together to ensure NWT residents receive the benefits of our northern resources, we risk losing out on this historic opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Premier to be a leader among leaders. Now is the time to join forces. It is the Premier's role to rally the troops. We must all work even more diligently to ensure resource development is to the benefit of the Northwest Territories' residents. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Socioeconomic Benefits Of Resource Development

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 28 years ago, when the first plan was being made to build the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, Judge Thomas Berger was asked to review the socioeconomic impacts the project would have on the people of the North. After hearing all the facts, Justice Berger recommended that the project be postponed and that a 10-year moratorium on all pipeline construction be put into place. He recommended the moratorium because he recognized the fact that northern aboriginal peoples were not ready to engage the pipeline project. They were not in a position to derive any meaningful benefits from it. He felt, after 10 years, that it would be sufficient time to settle all outstanding aboriginal land claims in the Mackenzie Valley, thereby ensuring aboriginal people a meaningful role in the project when it eventually went ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform the House that our federal government has fallen far short of Mr. Berger's recommendation. We have had three times the amount of time Berger gave us and still not all land claims in the Mackenzie Valley have been settled. In that time, we did build a pipeline, the Norman Wells pipeline. As a member of the Liidlii Kue Band Council and a councillor at that time, I remember the experience very well. The Deh Cho Dene didn't have a settled land claim then either, and the projects happened, just like Justice Berger said it would, without meaningful benefits accruing to aboriginal people.

There were promises of benefits, but none of those promises were ever met. First Nations yet again had to deal with broken promises. This must not be allowed to happen again, and I will do everything I can to ensure that this will not happen again. All aboriginal and northern people must receive direct long-term benefits from the construction of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline and access and benefit agreements that are clearly defined in writing, if not cast in stone. Nothing else will do. This is very imperative. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. 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. MENICOCHE: Honourable colleagues, mahsi cho for allowing me to conclude my Member's statement. I just want to point out that the North was born on hunting and trapping, and the land provided for us. The animals provided for us and the furs provided us cash. In this modern day and age, the land is still giving us an opportunity to take care of us through the gas, oil and all the resources that are in the North. Here is our opportunity for the land to continue to take care of us, but today we call it resource revenue sharing. I believe firmly that our government has to urge the federal government to say this is a priority for the northern governments. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the pipeline we are talking about today must benefit all of us. I firmly believe that. Nothing else is acceptable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Concerns With Social Impact As A Result Of A Booming Economy

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, indeed the news is out about the Northwest Territories diamonds, oil and gas, and our exceptional economic situation is making good copy in southern newspapers. Our economic growth is almost 10 times greater than the rest of Canada, and our employment rates are also breaking all records already without the pipeline. In Yellowknife, we have full employment, statistically speaking, already.

Mr. Speaker, the future indeed looks very bright, but there are many in our communities who are very concerned about the social impact the explosion of booming economy from the pipeline development will bring to the NWT, because, Mr. Speaker, we also topped the statistics on all negative indicators as well. We have an extraordinarily high rate in alcohol and drug abuse. We have out-of-control gambling addictions. We have FAS, FAE, and a high rate of suicide among youths. We have an increasing amount of sexually-transmitted diseases, as well, and in all forms of criminal rate we are at the forefront in these unfortunate statistics as well. Mr. Speaker, I must admit to you that this government has not done enough. We have not prepared people in our communities to be ready to take advantage of the economic prosperity that is to come without crippling impacts that could possibly destroy our communities in the process.

Mr. Speaker, our residents all along the Mackenzie Valley corridor are very concerned about what kind of impact the inflow of thousands of transient workers from the South will have on the cultural and social fabric of our small communities. It is vital that, in all their negotiations and at all tables, the socioeconomic impact of this development project remains at a high level of the agenda. Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud the Native Women's Association for organizing a conference at the beginning of next month in Fort Providence that will deal...

---Applause

...that will deal with these very issues, and there will be a lot of distinguished aboriginal women leaders who will give us a lot of guidance, and we could do good by listening to what they are saying. I would also conclude by recognizing the very good work done by the Status of Women Council of the NWT.

---Applause

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

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I would like to conclude by recognizing the very good work done by the Status of Women Council of the NWT who, in July of 2004, released a report titled Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Terms of Reference of the Mackenzie Gas Project. It is an excellent report with two very neatly organized tables included in the report that tells us what we need to do, what the mitigating steps are that we could take to get our people ready and to make sure that our people benefit from it in a maximum way. I would just like to say that all the governments at all levels needs to read that and get on with the implementation now. 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 Towards Financial Independency

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I now know the uncertainties that come with the financial dependencies on the federal government. This hinders our ability to secure well-funded programs and services for our people, and to control our rich territory.

The size of the government cheques that are given to us can only be seen as the stick and the carrot approach to keep the residents in the North and create a deeply-rooted state of dependency on the federal government. With this kind of attitudinal mind of the feds, it is difficult to plan for the years ahead, let alone for the long term. Do we want to cut programs to be fiscally responsible, or do we want to make investments for the future?

Mr. Speaker, the aboriginal self-governments are going to have the same problems. Our people have invested in the land claim process and the self-government framework agreements. Like everyone else, we like to secure long-lasting agreements for our children, that finally recognize our aboriginal rights to our land.

Mr. Speaker, it will be a huge disappointment if our new governments do not have the financial resources to do their job. The GNWT has some ability to absorb sudden adjustments, but this is not without some pain to the regions. How are smaller regions going to be able to cope? The only answer I can see, Mr. Speaker, is for northern governments to have our own sustainable

revenue service charge. Yes, impact and benefits agreements, land access fees and equity ownership in the pipeline will provide our own-source revenues and benefits, but the real security can only come from resource royalties.

---Applause

So I tell the federal government, quit robbing from us. How long...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Quit robbing, quit robbing.

---Applause

MR. YAKELEYA: How long are we going to allow this to happen, to continue?

Mr. Speaker, it is a critical time for our precious territory. We have big problems on the radar screen, a pipeline, more diamond mines, and who knows what next. But we only have one chance to get it right, or before we know it our resources will be gone for good. Our land will be scarred, and all the royalties will be in Ottawa, paying for gun registries and sponsorship scandals, while we beg for a few dollars to teach our children...

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame.

MR. YAKELEYA: ...heal our cuts and look after our elders. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Member's statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. 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, and thank you, honourable colleagues. It is no secret, Mr. Speaker, I want to see the Mackenzie Valley pipeline happen. I am happy for the Tlicho and the Akaitcho people for having diamonds on their land. Mr. Speaker, I have to wonder sometimes if these resource development projects go ahead and we do not have a royalty sharing deal, who will really benefit and is it worth it.

Do the honourable thing, Mr. Premier, and put the Crown on notice that the stakes are high in the Northwest Territories and we want a share, a fair share of those stakes. Mr. Speaker, resource revenue sharing has been happening a long time in our country, since the 1800s. It's now high time that we get our fair share deal for the Northwest Territories, period. 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 Fair Devolution Agreements And Resource Revenue Sharing

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. For the past 130 years, the vast lands of the Northwest Territories have been the treasure chest of Canada, the collateral of the nation, with the riches from our forests, rocks and waters. But over the past decades, Mr. Speaker, four provinces and one territory have been carved out of our boundaries. Today, while we are left with a much smaller geography,

we are still blessed with the resources that an increasingly hungry world wants, and we have at least two of these. We have energy and we have minerals, and off in the future, Mr. Speaker, let's look way out there, will be the exploitation of our most precious commodity of all, our vast resources of clean water.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MR. BRADEN: The North is also the centre of some of the world's most progressive moves, Mr. Speaker, in democracy and governance. We are trying to make the best of them right here in this Assembly, as we try to forge new alliances between the indigenous peoples of northern Canada and newer Canadians from other nations. We have been, and will continue to be, the most exciting place to live in Canada, if the dynamics of our politics, our economy and our societies evolve.

Just weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, we heard that Canada has awakened to these factors and is calling for a new vision and a new purpose to be struck in a new national strategy for the North. It has been 50 years since this was done. It is an exciting and encouraging opportunity for us, but we must recognize that this will not happen overnight. Indeed, it will be years before the fruits of such a bold initiative begin to take effect. In the meantime though, our economic chance to make most of this happen is being exploited at astonishing rates with precious little left for us.

Last year alone, Mr. Speaker, almost \$2.3 billion in diamonds, gold, and oil and gas was taken from our lands; more than twice the value of all the services of this government, in one year, gone. The royalties stream from this amounted to some \$200 million flowing into federal coffers that we have learned are already staggering under an astonishing \$9.1 billion surplus. Our share of this, at current levels, about \$8 million; \$8 million out of \$200 million.

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

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I request 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, as I have said, some \$200 million flowing into federal coffers that are already bulging under a \$9.1 billion surplus. We get about \$8 million out of this \$200 million. I do the math, Mr. Speaker, and it just doesn't figure, especially as our Legislature struggles this year on how to pay our \$20 million of our budgets for health, education, housing and other matters.

Mr. Speaker, we often hear criticism and outrage of how huge multinational corporations plunder the resources of developing nations. They get away with it by taking advantage of lax, uncoordinated and short-sighted governments. Is the NWT any different? Why are we allowing this to happen?

Mr. Speaker, our northern governments have got to pull together now more than ever, to put aside our differences

and pull together on the urgency for a deal to share our resources. The message we need to spread across Canada and especially in the halls of Parliament and the bureaucracies of Ottawa, is that Canada must choose finally to cast off the regressive mantle of colonialism toward the NWT.

---Applause

Ottawa must see that we are a genuine, vital and legitimate part of the Canadian federation. We are a player, a partner, and more than a source of cash, Mr. Speaker. We ask only to be treated fairly and equitably. It is time for the agreements on devolution and resource revenue sharing to be a reality for us and the aboriginal governments of this land. 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 Concerns About Pipeline Development In The NWT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I think about the Mackenzie Valley pipeline it raises a number of concerns for me; primary concerns such as what it will do to benefit northerners. We should be asking these questions for a long time. We had been, is the way I see it. At this time, I think we should know some of the answers before we break ground. Our return to the Mackenzie Valley pipeline for the Northwest Territories without a resource revenue sharing agreement is expected to be \$900 million over the next 30 years compared to what the federal government's share is, which is almost \$22 billion.

Mr. Speaker, this adds insult to injury. The federal government also seeks to reduce our grant for taking our small piece of the pie from the pipeline revenue. Mr. Speaker, this is raping and pillaging of the NWT and this needs to stop now.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear, our milk is no longer free, so stop taking it, federal government.

---Applause

It's time to marry the cow into a real agreement.

---Laughter

Until the federal government gives the Northwest Territories our share of resource revenues, until they invest into our protected areas, the Northwest Territories isn't prepared to risk our beautiful environment to become what one environmental group called us, "America's gas tank."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. HAWKINS: The GNWT is investing so much money in the pipeline; we're opening new offices, we're hiring more people in the government, we're doing assessment

after assessment without really knowing what our return on the investment is going to be. If we took all the money that we have invested in the pipeline strategy and we put it into early childhood education or a stronger arts program or something better yet, such as youth, we'd be seeing real tangible results, Mr. Speaker. Real results. Mr. Speaker, as I see it, we are racing to build a pipeline, but unfortunately there is no race for the Americas that compels us to head first into an early childhood education program and that's a real shame.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also concerned about the Alaskan pipeline, the way the United States Senate has passed legislation designed to jump start the construction of the pipeline down the Alaska Highway. This bill includes permitting approvals and loan guarantees worth nearly \$18 billion U.S. Mr. Speaker, that's \$22 billion Canadian and to make my point even clearer, America is subsidizing their pipeline 24 times the amount...

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement? Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honourable colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I'll say again, this bill includes permitting approvals and loan guarantees worth nearly \$18 billion U.S. That's \$22 billion Canadian, as I've said. To make that point, as I've stressed, clearly that's 24 times what the GNWT will get over our life of this project. Mr. Speaker, that does not make any fiscal sense. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT should be working with the Americas about buying off and sitting still for 20 years because we'd be much further ahead making a side deal than trying to charge into this in competition with them.

Mr. Speaker, if the Alaska pipeline goes first, what happens to all our time, money and efforts that we've invested over the last many years? What happens while we wait for the next 20 to 30 years? I think that may be a waste without any type of certainty.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to support this pipeline, I truly do, because I see tangible benefits. All our northern peoples can gain from this. But from where I'm sitting, it looks like this territory is carrying all the risk and this hasn't changed over the years. We need rock solid guarantees from our federal government that warrant our investment. We need a change of attitude from the federal government for us to truly get on board.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I look upon the United States as being a big giant, those Philistines of the Americas. Mr. Speaker, tell me our Premier is not our little David out there on the plains with an unloaded slingshot.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, we need something concrete, not guarantees and promises where we take an empty leap of faith. Mr. Speaker, our shepherds better have a pouch full

of concrete investment of smooth, solid rocks before we take on that giant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a friend today: Major Karen Hoeft.

---Applause

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to recognize the folks who are visiting with us here in the Northwest Territories from the CPAC channel that are interviewing a number of Members and northerners to put together a documentary about us. Thank you and good luck.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item, 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You already mentioned their names, but I would like to mention a fine constituent of mine who is Pat McMahon, a former mayor of this fine city of Yellowknife. In her fine company is Captain Tony Evans of the HMCS Yellowknife. I'd like to draw to the attention of all Members of this House that I'm wearing the Yellowknife ship's pin right on my chest here with pride. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Walter Goose from Holman. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the great goaltender from Deline, Danny Gaudet, and the community's good negotiator for self-government. Welcome, Danny.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I'd like to welcome anyone in the gallery who may not have been mentioned. Welcome to the Legislative

Assembly. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 272-15(3): Federal Government Understanding Of Northern Issues

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my questions today to the Premier of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Joe Handley. Mr. Speaker, in following up on one of the statements of my colleagues on the subject of leadership, I have already, during this session, briefly touched on this subject with the Premier and asked him some questions. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very timely discussion with respect to the pipeline. The Premier has heard many Members today refer to some of the frustrations that we feel with the response we have received over the years when dealing with the federal government about the northern agenda. I think this is a very timely matter and I would like to have the Premier, on the eve of his departure to Ottawa again to speak with the powers that be, again share with us why he thinks we, as Members and elected leaders in the Northwest Territories, should feel encouraged and why we should feel that the federal government does understand and hear our issues and has them, in fact, on their agenda. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 272-15(3): Federal Government Understanding Of Northern Issues

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am confident that we have the attention of the federal government. We have the attention of a lot of Canadians as a result of work that the previous Premier has done and work that I've done as Premier, as well as Members, the business sector and my colleagues on Cabinet. We have made sure that our issues are on the radar screen across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of signals that I have to read between because we don't have concrete agreements on a lot of things. But when the Primer Minister appointed the Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister, as the lead on the Mackenzie Valley pipeline file, that sent a strong signal to me that this is a very important issue to him and one that he hopes to achieve success on.

The second one is in the Throne speech and in discussions with me and with others earlier on, the Prime Minister has made a commitment to develop a northern strategy. In fact, our Member of Parliament has been named as the Minister of Northern Development. I think that sends a strong signal, and he has offered to do that in cooperation with northern governments, with ourselves, with aboriginal governments and generally with northerners. It says to me that the federal government is, at least at the political level, paying attention to what is going on in the North and have recognized the huge potential that the Northwest Territories has to contribute to this country of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident we have the attention. Now the challenge before us is how to take that attention, that interest in the North, and translate it into real benefits for us as northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 272-15(3): Federal Government Understanding Of Northern Issues

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that the Premier still feels encouraged by the signals that we receive from Ottawa. I think the Premier is well aware of the fact that I don't feel as encouraged and I don't feel as confident and I need to see some concrete evidence of their support for our agenda.

On the subject of leadership again, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to see us lose anything by default. Again, a Member today referred to the divide-and-conquer approach. When the Premier goes to Ottawa I think very clearly, from today and from other communications, he will know the feelings of the elected leaders in this House. But as we all know, when we're talking to Ottawa, we're talking about the Northwest Territories. We are not the only elected leaders. So if not the Premier, then who has the ability or authority or the mandate to rally the troops, to get the aboriginal leadership together so that we have a unified voice in Ottawa? Does the Premier feel that, when he travels to Ottawa to speak to the Ministers and the Prime Minister and the various leaders, he can speak with the voice of not only the leaders in this House, but also the aboriginal leaders? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 272-15(3): Federal Government Understanding Of Northern Issues

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I really do appreciate the strong statements that were made here today, the clear statements from the Members. I think that tells me that I do have a good, clear, solid message and solid support from the Members in this House as we go forward to have discussions with the Prime Minister and some of the Ministers in Ottawa. I have had discussions with the aboriginal leaders, as well, and I have to respect their autonomy and their priorities, but I can tell you from a conference call I had a couple of weeks ago that I am confident that the majority of the leaders understand what it is we are doing and why we were doing it and do support our actions.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that they may be at different points in terms of settling aboriginal claims or self-government discussions. I recognize that what they're doing may not always be exactly the same as ours and they have the right to make independent decisions, but I am comfortable with the support we got at the last Circle of Northern Leaders and the support I've heard since. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 272-15(3): Federal Government Understanding Of Northern Issues

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the last government, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Honourable Robert Nault, committed to a process which encompassed the GNWT,

the aboriginal governments and the federal government. The federal government subsequently hired David Peterson as a negotiator on behalf of the federal government, to which we were disappointed later to hear that he couldn't talk money but he could talk devolution. That was a process that was in place. I think we made progress. Now we have a different Minister. What is the process now in place to continue that dialogue amongst northerners and government to government? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 272-15(3): Federal Government Understanding Of Northern Issues

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct; we had a process in the last government and that process is continuing. I have talked to the Minister of DIAND, Minister Scott, about the Aboriginal Summit, about the Intergovernmental Forum, and he has confirmed to me that he wants to continue with those same discussions. The previous Minister of DIAND did appoint David Peterson to negotiate devolution, but he didn't give them a mandate to negotiate resource revenue sharing. That mandate stayed with Finance Canada.

I am frustrated with Finance Canada because it's been since the fall of 2003 that we gave them our position and we have never been able to sit down with them since. I'm also disappointed that DIAND and Finance Canada don't seem to be able to get together and present one position as a government rather than two different positions as two federal departments. Those are issues that I've raised with the Prime Minister and I'll continue to raise with him. I believe that if he really wants to see success with the northern strategy and see success with some of the major economic opportunities, he is going to have to find a way of getting those federal departments to sit down and speak with one voice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 272-15(3): Federal Government Understanding Of Northern Issues

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again referring to the positive signals that the Premier refers to, the referencing of the Throne speech, the appointment of our federal MP as the Minister of Northern Development, the appointment of Anne McLellan as the chair of a special committee of parliamentarians on the pipeline, when the Premier goes to Ottawa this time, would he endeavour to have a commitment from people like Anne McLellan, our MP and other people who sit on that committee, to come to the Northwest Territories? I know it's a signal he speaks of, but we have literally not met with or seen these people since their appointment. Would he commit to getting them here, bring them back to the North? Let's talk to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

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

Further Return To Question 272-15(3): Federal Government Understanding Of Northern Issues

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I also agree that if we're going to have a northern strategy then we have to have the people who are involved in the northern strategy come to the North and have meetings here, sit down with us as a Caucus and sit down with other northern leaders. I did speak to our MP, the Minister of Northern Development, today and we did have some general discussion about when she might be available to come to the North. I did not ask her specifically about some of the other Ministers, Minister Scott or Minister Efford, but I know that she is working on some agendas and she has told me that as soon as she can confirm some dates then she would like to come and meet with us, along with some of the other main federal Ministers who are involved on this file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Before I go on, I'd just like to remind all Members of the time we have for question period. We took 10 minutes for one set of questions and I now have a long list here. I know it's an important issue, but we want to be cognizant of the time. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 273-15(3): Permanent Trust Fund For Northerners

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Premier. Back in March when I brought up the issue of a permanent trust fund being established in the Northwest Territories to benefit all northerners, the Premier stated at that time that he would have a discussion with Ottawa and with the Prime Minister in terms of the establishment of that trust fund. I'm just wondering, Mr. Speaker, if that conversation has taken place and maybe the Premier could let us know how that went. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 273-15(3): Permanent Trust Fund For Northerners

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as recently as this morning I raised that issue with our MP and only to float the idea with her that we have to have some benefit from resources. I've also talked to the Prime Minister about that, as well, saying look, one of our mines is half way through its life. We still haven't done anything here. So yes, I have raised that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 273-15(3): Permanent Trust Fund For Northerners

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleague mentioned the fact that the Premier is on the verge of going to Ottawa next week, I do believe, and I'm just wondering if he can indeed bring up the issue of the trust fund again with the Prime Minister. I see the establishment of this trust fund as being beneficial to both the aboriginal leaders and governments in the Northwest Territories and our government, Mr. Speaker, because it should happen. We need to get that done. I'm just

wondering if the government has any idea of what types of revenues we're losing on a daily, monthly and yearly basis, even on the Norman Wells pipeline into northern Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 273-15(3): Permanent Trust Fund For Northerners

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will raise that issue. I am leaving for Ottawa tomorrow morning. I have a meeting on...Sorry; I'm leaving on Saturday morning. Correction. I have a meeting with the Prime Minister, with Minister Blondin-Andrew, Minister Scott and others at 11:00 on Sunday to begin the discussions and I will raise this issue again for sure. Mr. Speaker, I don't have an up-to-date number on resource revenues that we're losing right now, but I can tell you that in the 2002-03 public accounts showed that DIAND's Northern Affairs program collected \$38.7 million in mining and oil and gas royalties and that was before prices had gone up and there's been an increase in mining activity and an increase in oil activity since. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Question 274-15(3): Use Of Satellite Office Training Facilities

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent. As I indicated in my Member's statement regarding the \$15 million available under the ASEP Program, there are two facilities that can be used in Tuktoyaktuk as a satellite Aurora College training. Mr. Speaker, I did have a chance to speak with the campus director in Inuvik earlier this month and she did show a lot of interest with regard to a satellite office in Tuk. My question to the Minister is will the Minister explore whether these funds may be allocated to training people in local communities in the Beaufort-Delta region in preparation for pipeline development? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent.

Return To Question 274-15(3): Use Of Satellite Office Training Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know I've talked to the college too about the facilities in Tuk and told them about the Member's interest in seeing those facilities used for training purposes. So I am sure the college is taking a look at whether or not that provides an opportunity. The funding that is part of the Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership Program will be administered by the committee that has been set up to oversee that sort of funding, but I will make sure that the Education, Culture and Employment representative on the committee keeps the opportunities in mind for regional training that could be offered. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 274-15(3): Use Of Satellite Office Training Facilities

MR. POKIAK: Thank you very much. It's good to see that he will go ahead and follow along with your education individual there. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister guarantee for sure that Tuk has been utilized as...(inaudible)...years ago? An example is Dome Petroleum's base. They had what they called Tuk Tech and they operated out of the two camps during the Dome days, which worked out very well. So will the Minister again guarantee that he will be able to work hard with his department to have some satellite training outside of Inuvik? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 274-15(3): Use Of Satellite Office Training Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment invests about \$1.1 million on its own annually to train people in regional settings to assist them to find jobs in the oil and gas field. That will continue and that does take place throughout the region, including communities like Tuk. The ASEP funding is intended to serve all of the regions in which oil and gas is found and in which people may find employment. So there is certainly an intention to make sure training takes place on a regional basis. I can assure the Member that there will be regional training offered both by the Government of the Northwest Territories through ECE programs and through the money that is available through the federal government and partners and ECE, that being through ASEP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Question 275-15(3): Protected Areas Strategy

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll direct my question to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Honourable Brendan Bell. I know that the action plan for the Protected Areas Strategy has been developed by the NWT Protected Areas Strategy Secretariat since 2002 when it was first initiated. I know that there have been negotiations on some cost-sharing agreements with the federal government and other aboriginal organizations to the tune of \$17 million for the Protected Areas Strategy. I wanted to ask the Minister if any cost-sharing agreement has been reached and, if not, when can we see an agreement put in place? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 275-15(3): Protected Areas Strategy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an initiative that we've been working on for some time now and we do currently fund some of the work that the secretariat is doing, but the bigger piece of work that we're looking to fund is in the neighbourhood of \$1.5 million over five years. We've been expecting that the federal government would come forward with their money. The

NGOs have already indicated that they've got the money ready to go and we impacted the three partners in the PAS. We still don't have a firm signal and firm commitment from the federal government as to their contribution. I think at this point we've decided that we may not, in fact, be able to wait for that and we're going to have to go forward. So I am putting some work to go in front of our Financial Management Board to seek this funding to continue to support the PAS. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 275-15(3): Protected Areas Strategy

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that response. Something of this nature I guess in a Protected Areas Strategy, you're debt ratio to the end cross-referenced with the Mackenzie gas project. You know, something like this has to be in place before a project of this magnitude breaks ground and I want to commend the department for contributing \$1.5 million over the next five years. But the estimated cost over the five years in the summary of the PSAC action plan is \$17.745 million and I just want to ask the Minister if he's approached NGOs or producing groups, for instance, to come up with any funding or being involved in this cost-sharing agreement? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 275-15(3): Protected Areas Strategy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The agreement, as laid out some time ago, sees three partners to the funding: three NGOs, the federal government and the GNWT. The three NGOs are WWF, Canada Parks and Wilderness Society, and Ducks Unlimited. Their commitment is for \$5.9 million. RWED has committed that we would try to seek \$1.5 million over five years, but that was contingent on the federal government stepping to the plate with their contribution, which is the lion's share of the funding. As I've said, we don't have that commitment yet, but we are working to see what kinds of pieces of this agreement we can fund until that commitment is realized. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 275-15(3): Protected Areas Strategy

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess maybe I just want to exchange my form of questions. I want to ask the Minister if the Protected Areas Strategy action plan includes monitoring and feedback to this government and the federal government on a semi-annual basis or even on a monthly basis on how the planning process carried out and what's developing to date. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 275-15(3): Protected Areas Strategy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, as one of the funding partners, we are intimately involved I

would say on a daily basis with the work the secretariat is carrying out. Obviously we do receive feedback as to how that work is continuing. Work is underway, work is going forward. We rely, I think as the Member knows, on communities and regional groups to identify the candidate areas for protection. We are looking to protect culturally and ecologically-sensitive areas and so this really is grassroots community driven, but, yes, we are involved on a daily basis and do receive feedback as to the results that are being achieved through the secretariat. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 275-15(3): Protected Areas Strategy

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to point out that I know that a lot of the candidate areas and these community groups have other avenues in which to establish protected areas; for example, through Parks Canada, Environment Canada and through the territorial government through their own protected areas legislation that they already have in place. I want to know what priority does this Protected Areas Strategy action plan have over any of these other avenues, which could be easier to work with for these candidate-selected areas that these organizations want. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 275-15(3): Protected Areas Strategy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we can see this as a comprehensive plan for the entire territory. We know that this pipeline isn't confined to one region, one community, one area. We have to understand that the impacts are throughout the whole region, the cumulative impacts of the project. The impacts on all these regions are important to take into consideration. So, yes, there are other processes underway that are driven by land claims organizations and those are important as well, but this is one that's very comprehensive and involves all of the groups up and down the valley. Because of that, the nature of this plan, we think that it's very important and continue to support this and make it one of our highest priorities as a government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Question 276-15(3): Status Of GNWT's Socioeconomic Agreement

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the honourable Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development. The machine has begun in terms of the proponents filing their documents to build the Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline project. I would like to ask the Minister where is the department at in terms of our role in developing our socioeconomic development agreement. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 276-15(3): Status Of GNWT's Socioeconomic Agreement

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department has now sat down with the Producers Group to start this discussion around the SEA. We received the filing, the EIS is underway. Our joint AOC and Cabinet committee will continue to provide that direction. At the upcoming meeting, which will happen this session, we'll have further discussion on SEA planning and what our strategies are. There are a number of highlighted areas, themes, that we have to discuss and I look forward to that work, but we are now underway in meeting with the Producers Group. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 276-15(3): Status Of GNWT's Socioeconomic Agreement

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker. That's very important that we do sit with them. As well, I believe it's very important that we sit with our public and our constituents as they want a say and they want to be heard as our socioeconomic development agreement progresses. Does the Minister have plans to provide community consultations with regard to a GNWT socioeconomic development agreement?

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

Further Return To Question 276-15(3): Status Of GNWT's Socioeconomic Agreement

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is right and certainly we can't do this work in a vacuum. We need to both consider the interdepartmental issues, many departments, not just RWED involved in this work to make sure that people benefit and to make sure we're ready. As we develop the socioeconomic agreement, obviously we've got to involve all the regional aboriginal groups and the public right across the Territories. So as the Member knows, our committee will do some work in the regions and have some discussions. I think it's important that we get out there and hear what people think. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 276-15(3): Status Of GNWT's Socioeconomic Agreement

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me if the GNWT did gain our intervener status when it comes to deliberation in the public hearings or the federal government in the deliberations of the joint review panel? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 276-15(3): Status Of GNWT's Socioeconomic Agreement

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will, as a government, make interventions on behalf of the public of the Northwest Territories at the environmental review process for areas under our mandate, obviously wildlife and other areas. So, yes, we will be interveners in the process. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 276-15(3): Status Of GNWT's Socioeconomic Agreement

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just looking for assurance from the Minister that our role as interveners is not going to be merely a rubber-stamper, but we'll have some meaningful input into the hearings and demand some of the things that our people are saying that they definitely want benefits and just not roll over. Will the Minister direct his department to play more of a participatory role in the joint review panel hearings? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 276-15(3): Status Of GNWT's Socioeconomic Agreement

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you. I think I understand the Member; play a role, but don't roll over. I think the Member makes a very good point. When it comes to the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories if not us, then who would represent those? I think the Member is quite right. It is up to this government to make sure that the interests of the Northwest Territories are met through this project. I think we can do that. We take our role as interveners very seriously. I can give the Member that assurance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Question 277-15(3): Northern Leaders Discussion On Resource Revenue Sharing

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reference to my Member's statement today, I'd like to direct my question to the Premier in terms of what I said earlier on today. Can the Premier tell us when was the last time he was able to have a discussion with our northern leaders on resource revenue sharing and where do things stand today? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 277-15(3): Northern Leaders Discussion On Resource Revenue Sharing

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't have the exact day with me, but about three weeks ago I had a teleconference call with the northern leaders. They were generally in agreement with some of our discussions on interim resource revenue sharing. They were to have a meeting last week, but because of illness of one of the members they felt they were going to postpone that for a while. I expect to have another discussion with them soon. When I go to Ottawa this week I have been asked to meet with some of the key Ministers late on Tuesday afternoon to further some of the discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 277-15(3): Northern Leaders Discussion On Resource Revenue Sharing

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Premier tell us what he sees as being the next step in these discussions? I think I heard him say that they are going to try to have another future meeting. When is he anticipating that this meeting is going to take place? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 277-15(3): Northern Leaders Discussion On Resource Revenue Sharing

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, after our telephone conversation, the aboriginal leaders, through the Aboriginal Summit, wanted to get together to discuss this further on their own and had, in fact, invited myself and Minister Roland to a dinner meeting. We thought the one that was postponed might be held as early as this week, but I haven't heard yet. So the next step is for the aboriginal leaders to sit down by themselves and identify any issues with what we are proposing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 278-15(3): Action Plan To Address Social Impacts Of Resource Development

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been sort of tasked, I guess by Members on this side, to question the social impacts of the departments, which I am happy to do because I know that it is one that is a concern of all of us on this side and I think I will direct my questions to the Minister responsible for women, the honourable Minister Dent. Mr. Speaker, I realize that social impacts of mega resource development projects are not women's issues alone, but there are a lot of issues that we need to deal with and there is no question that these important issues are not being discussed at various tables that are going on to the extent that they should.

Even oil and gas conferences you have to try really hard to look at the agenda to see how social impacts are being discussed in any substantive way. Even the joint pipeline committee that we have set up, the agenda is crowded and the social impacts get dropped to the sidelines. I think, Mr. Speaker, this report that I mentioned in my Member's statement by the Status of Women Council is a really, really good place to start because it really covers all of the issues that we need to deal with whether it's training, women's participation, potential increase in alcohol and drugs and gambling abuse, the impact of transients and all sorts of things. So let me just ask the Minister as to whether or not there has been any action taken to see if his section on women's directorate could look into this and come up with an action plan on that basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 278-15(3): Action Plan To Address Social Impacts Of Resource Development

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member has a good point and it's an issue that this government is quite aware of and is working to make sure that we keep in mind whenever we talk about issues like development in the North. In fact, the special joint committee on the pipeline, it's part of its mandate to provide direction to the government on the negotiation of a SEA, and issues such as this are certainly the sort of thing that we want to see talked about during the negotiation with companies in the socioeconomic agreements. So we will make sure that we keep this sort of thing in mind. The government also has made sure that the bringing together of the social envelope Ministers, that when we meet we bring in the special advisor to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, to make sure that we are always reminded that we keep issues of gender equity on the table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 278-15(3): Action Plan To Address Social Impacts Of Resource Development

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report, for example on page 5, has a whole section on community wellness. This is not just a women's issue, but it is done by the Status of Women Council. It is coming from a woman's perspective, which I believe also is always a better and enlightened perspective.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, if you read through this community wellness section, it really provides the government with concrete steps that the government could take to get the people ready for the megaprojects. It talks about child and homecare services, improve the information services like a helpline or legal line, assisting to manage financial pressures from friends and family. It sounds to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister has not reviewed this step by step. I would like to know if the Minister could commit to having his staff look at this report and look at all of the recommendations and report back to this House as to how they can be incorporated into the readiness for the projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 278-15(3): Action Plan To Address Social Impacts Of Resource Development

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the report and have reviewed it myself. Part of the response is to the social framework that this government is working in partnership with other agencies. That issue is discussed regularly at the social Ministers' envelope meetings and it is something that this government is working to bring forward. In terms of what we are doing specifically for oil and gas, it is no different than what we would do in all of our communities. We are working to improve the ability of communities to deal with social problems that are a result of development. We work to support them. I would say that we are aware of the report. The report is not something that is new to this government. Through the work of the social Ministers'

envelope, we are working to try and advance issues of gender concern as much as we can. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 278-15(3): Action Plan To Address Social Impacts Of Resource Development

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe we must come up with a more concrete and more focused response and preparedness for what is going to befall upon us socially and with this megaproject. I think we have to do more than just business as usual, Mr. Speaker, because there are some specific issues and specific fallouts that we are going to have from this mega resource development from transient workers. We are already seeing increased use of crack cocaine and more prostitution, promiscuity. This report is talking about things like that. People use easy money frivolously on gambling. We are dealing with really serious social issues that the government has to get ready. I believe that it has to be precise, Mr. Speaker. A socioeconomic impact agreement is totally separate from dealing with social issues. It is about how is the government ready to deal with what is coming before us. Would the Minister commit to doing something more specific to prepare for the resource development? Thank you.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 278-15(3): Action Plan To Address Social Impacts Of Resource Development

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that I would agree that this is totally separate. A company that is responsible for making a large amount of money from our resources in the Northwest Territories has a responsibility to help us deal with the social issues that arise from that money coming into the Territories. Therefore, one of the things that we are trying to do is to bring social issues into socioeconomic agreements with the company. We believe that we have to work with companies to support gender issues when we talk to them about the socioeconomic agreements as well. It is something that isn't just right socially. It makes good business sense in the long run. Maybe we have to help them understand that, so this government is committed to helping communities deal with the social issues, and the social envelope Ministers are talking about these issues and are formulating plans to try and deal with social issues that we face across the Territories right now. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 278-15(3): Action Plan To Address Social Impacts Of Resource Development

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe what is happening with this pipeline is so huge, we are spending a lot of energy and time talking about how we get the most financial benefit, how we get resource revenue sharing. All of that is important. We have many people spending lots of resources working on those to get the best deal possible. I think there should be the same effort, energy, and resources put on by this government. You get the

money from the company, but is the government working with the partners that could work out a specific plan to get ready for the pipeline development? Are Ministers talking about it in the social envelope committee? Why can't he put together step-by-step programs that they are going to do in specific response to what they see as a potential problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 278-15(3): Action Plan To Address Social Impacts Of Resource Development

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think what I have been saying is that is a natural course of what we are doing. It is something that this government is doing on a continual basis. We are, as social Ministers, working together to make sure that we are formulating the plans that will best serve our constituents. As we develop them, yes, they will be rolled out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 279-15(3): Aboriginal Representation In Negotiating Resource Revenue Sharing

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Premier of Northwest Territories. In researching and looking at some of the past Hansards with regard to resource revenue sharing, in light of the complexity of dealing with revenue resource sharing and the issues that are on the table, can the Premier tell me when can we, as the Northwest Territories, as a northern aboriginal people, get our act together, go down to Ottawa and sit down once and for all and ask them what are the clear rules and guidelines of getting a deal done? We have been dealing with this a long time. The Premier knows it. Let's get our act together. Let's go down to Ottawa with everybody who is involved in the resource sharing scheme of things and tell Ottawa, once and for all, we need to do it. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Return To Question 279-15(3): Aboriginal Representation In Negotiating Resource Revenue Sharing

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, in my discussions with the aboriginal leaders a few weeks ago, I did propose to them that we need to have representatives from here and aboriginal leaders meet in Ottawa together with some of the key Ministers. I had hoped we would be able to do that by the end of October, but things have slipped. I still hope that we can do it this fall. I am not sure what everybody's schedules are, but, I agree, we need to be there. We need to be there in enough numbers that the message is clear that we stand together on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 279-15(3): Aboriginal Representation In Negotiating Resource Revenue Sharing

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. This issue is burning. It needs to get done. It is like we are negotiating. For example, if we were to negotiate a highway to the Sahtu, why negotiate a highway to Sahtu if we don't have the money to pay for it? Things like this really bug me as a Member here. To see the amount of wealth that is coming out of this Northwest Territories and is going to Ottawa, we can see the amount of dollars that is coming back to us. Our aboriginal communities are also saying we need these programs and services. Again, Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Premier, does he have a plan to sit down with the aboriginal governments, work out a strategy, and clear the agendas if we have to on behalf of the government and get the other MLAs involved, go down to Ottawa, step it up and say we made a deal? Like you said, Mr. Premier, the diamond mine has been here and a lot of dollars have gone out. Still, we haven't seen a deal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 279-15(3): Aboriginal Representation In Negotiating Resource Revenue Sharing

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I have talked to the aboriginal leaders. They were going to look at their own strategy and then sit down with myself and the Minister of Finance, and we would then formulate a more comprehensive strategy for getting down to Ottawa. The involvement of MLAs is something that I had not talked to them about, but I will certainly raise it with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 279-15(3): Aboriginal Representation In Negotiating Resource Revenue Sharing

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier because this is a very sensitive issue to all of the people involved. It is very complex. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the federal government negotiator doesn't yet have the mandate in terms of devolution. He only has the mandate for programs and services, and Finance Canada has the mandate to negotiate the net fiscal benefits such as resource revenue sharing. I would really like to see any type of movement that the Premier can give our federal MP some leverage or some coaxing to Finance Canada to sit down with us. I would like to ask the Minister if he would raise that with our Member and really table a response in the future with regard to this discussion with our compadre in Ottawa. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 279-15(3): Aboriginal Representation In Negotiating Resource Revenue Sharing

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, when I go to Ottawa this week, I will definitely raise that with our MP, the Minister of Northern Development. I will also raise it with the Prime Minister and the other federal Ministers that we meet with. Further, I will certainly clarify the unanimous words of support that we heard today from the MLAs. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 279-15(3): Aboriginal Representation In Negotiating Resource Revenue Sharing

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. I understand, reading through the Hansards of previous sittings here, that the federal government really was not too sure of or may have a problem with sitting with the aboriginal organizations or aboriginal governments in terms of negotiating resource revenue sharing or devolution. Has the federal government changed its views on that? I understand they just want to deal with the GNWT. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 279-15(3): Aboriginal Representation In Negotiating Resource Revenue Sharing

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, generally, and I would have to say at the officials or bureaucrat level, the message that has come from Finance Canada is that Finance Canada negotiates arrangements that work with provincial and territorial governments. It does not enter into agreements with municipal governments or aboriginal governments and so on. To my knowledge, they have not changed their view on that. I have not heard that same sentiment from the political leaders, Mr. Speaker. I have heard it, though, clearly from the officials in the department. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 280-15(3): Status Of Devolution Agreement

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Premier, the Honourable Joe Handley. They centre on the devolution framework and negotiations that I guess are underway. This is where I am seeking some clarification. March 18th of this year, the Premier, in his capacity of Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and the Minister of Indian Affairs, and a number of other aboriginal leaders signed the NWT Lands and Resources Devolution Framework Agreement. In that agreement, it sets out a timeline that suggests that an effective target date for this agreement shall be April of 2006. That is only about a-year-and-a-half from now, Mr. Speaker, but today and last week, the Minister told us that they are looking at an interim resource revenue sharing process because -- and I am quoting from Hansard of last Wednesday, Mr. Speaker -- "because I am not 100 percent confident that we are moving fast enough on devolution." The question

that I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, is which deal are we negotiating, the one that was signed just seven months ago, or now some new process that we still seem to be feeling around for conceptual agreement? Which deal is the one that is on the table? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 280-15(3): Status Of Devolution Agreement

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we only have a formal negotiating table for the main devolution agreement. The concept, the idea, the proposal of interim resource revenue sharing is not at a table right now. We continue to negotiate devolution. The next meeting is October 26th to 28th, so we are still talking devolution. Mr. Speaker, I have been discouraged by this slow pace since when the Aboriginal Summit wanted to get a new negotiator. We did. We had an election and change of Ministers of DIAND since then, a change of Ministers of Finance. Things have slowed us down to the point where I am not confident that we can have a quick devolution deal because, even in the North, some of the aboriginal organizations have not negotiated their final agreements. The Akaitcho, Deh Cho and NWT Metis are saying we want to negotiate our own deal before we get serious about devolution. There are so many things working against a longer-term devolution deal that my feeling is, at the same time that is happening, we are seeing resources going out of here. We have to get something in the interim, something that comes into effect now, not 18 years from now.

---Applause

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

Supplementary To Question 280-15(3): Status Of Devolution Agreement

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more that as the wealth of the territory is pumped and flown and driven out of the NWT, then we have to act as soon as we can to get a share of it. This is where Ottawa seems to be so good at the game. They have been very good at this for years. Process, divide and conquer are the tactics that keep us off balance and hurt us when we try to do this. The preamble to this deal of the signing, Mr. Speaker, on March 18th, refers quite clearly to the realization of resource revenue. It is not just a management deal, it is a money deal, too. Is this agreement worth the paper that it is written on, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 280-15(3): Status Of Devolution Agreement

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, that agreement, in my view, is worth the integrity of everybody who signed it. That is what is going to determine how we treat that agreement. When we signed it, we took it very seriously. I am sure the aboriginal leaders who signed it took it seriously. So that is a serious deal. Mr. Speaker, I will say that we are not going to be rushed into signing or entering into some kind of devolution deal that is not a good deal. I would sooner have no deal than a bad deal.

We are going to take our time. We are going to make sure that we have a good devolution deal. In the meantime, if we can get an interim resource revenue sharing, to get the money flowing here, the money staying here, I want to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 280-15(3): Status Of Devolution Agreement

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the answer that the Premier gave is one that I was hoping he would. There are a lot of people standing behind this. The signature of the previous Minister of Northern Affairs is on here too, and yet this seems to be where the bottleneck is. Why is it that, as we all seem to agree, on March 18th, that we can't say, okay, we agreed to live up to a deadline here of April 2006 to make this deal work? Why is it that we can't do it? Just do it. All this stuff about interim this, and sort of that, and maybe this, I am just so tired of it, Mr. Speaker. We make an agreement to get somewhere, and yet somewhere along the line it falls apart. Why can't we stick to the plan and work the plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 280-15(3): Status Of Devolution Agreement

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as one party to the plan, we have been working hard to stick to the plan and move ahead with it, but I cannot speak for the other two parties on this one, the aboriginal leaders and the federal government. We want to move ahead as quickly as we can on this and will do everything we can. Mr. Speaker, we have to understand that we are not in control of it ourselves. We have two other parties we have to work with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 281-15(3): Reduction Of Federal Grants Due To Resource Revenues

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to bring forward some of my concerns to a shepherd of our Assembly. I raised many questions in my Member's statement today. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier if he knows whether or not the federal government will deduct from our grants the resources and revenues that the territory may collect in the future -- I stress may -- from the pipeline even if we do get a resource revenue agreement and deal. What does he have to demonstrate certainty; not his gut feeling, certainty? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 281-15(3): Reduction Of Federal Grants Due To Resource Revenues

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we will not sign a deal that is not a good deal, so I can have that as a piece of certainty. Mr. Speaker, I fully expect that as a territory we are going to someday have much

less of a grant from the federal government and be more self-reliant on our own resource revenue. So I expect the federal government will take some money out of our grant, but I think we've got a lot of wealth in this territory and we need to keep it here for our people. We can live someday on our own resource revenues and be a have jurisdiction in Canada. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Supplementary To Question 281-15(3): Reduction Of Federal Grants Due To Resource Revenues

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope and I pray our Premier is right, that some day...However, the way I read the agreement now or I see us proceeding, I should say, not reading the agreement, is, yes, our resource benefit will increase, but our grant will decrease and still it will be a level playing field, there will be no change. So I can't see that we are proceeding in a direction right now that is what I want as concrete.

Mr. Speaker, the Pembina Institute released a report that was on the radio in August, saying that the federal government who sets the royalties is giving away the territory's oil and gas resources at a low cost. Between 1995 and 2002, on average, only \$2.20 per barrel of oil was collected for production in the NWT. Now compare that to \$14 per barrel in Norway, \$11.50 in Alaska per barrel. I would like to ask the Premier if he could address this issue or has he addressed this issue on the federal government. Are we giving away our resource revenues for nothing? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 281-15(3): Reduction Of Federal Grants Due To Resource Revenues

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say that when we balance our grants and our own resource revenues, we expect to have what we have always referred to as a net fiscal benefit. We never want to see a dollar for dollar, otherwise why are we doing this. Mr. Speaker, on the other one, on the report, yes, I believe the federal government is not getting the fiscal resources out of our natural resource development. We are not getting what we should and I saw the same report, I know we are getting much, much less than some of the Scandinavian countries, for example. Mr. Speaker, that's the federal government. We don't have any say on that right now, and, of course, that's why devolution is important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 281-15(3): Reduction Of Federal Grants Due To Resource Revenues

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, the way I see it right now is we could be spending money better and how could that be happening? I bet we could get further by spending \$1 million on a television commercial that could air all across Canada for people in Canada, and maybe even we could wake up some of those parliamentarians down in Ottawa

to see what is really happening up here. I think our resource money is being stolen. There is no Robin Hood stealing from the Northwest Territories and giving it back to the people, Mr. Premier. I think our Prime Minister should be going to jail, the way he is stealing from us.

Mr. Speaker, would the Premier tell us today, how much money is...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hawkins, the Chair cannot accept that statement from you. Would you retract that statement, Mr. Hawkins?

MR. HAWKINS: My apologies, Mr. Speaker, and, of course to the Prime Minister of Canada. I would not insinuate that in a very negative way, and my apologies and I will retract that.

Mr. Speaker, I see the North is hurting from the way Ottawa is taking our resources, and I think you can tell from the passion in my voice I think our people will be suffering from that. Would the Premier tell us today how much has been invested to date in preparing for this pipeline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 281-15(3): Reduction Of Federal Grants Due To Resource Revenues

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, that is a very complex question and I don't know, I don't have the information in front of me of how much we have spent as a government or how much has been spent by others preparing for the pipeline. I can tell you that it is in the hundreds of millions of dollars, particularly by industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 281-15(3): Reduction Of Federal Grants Due To Resource Revenues

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my last question to the Premier would be can you say for certainty, for concrete proof, that our territorial membership is onside with this deal? Can you tell us that we are ready? Can you tell me that all regions are onside? Because if we do not have our house in order, we will never be able to deal on a collective front with Ottawa. Can the Premier say for certain that our investment to date will not be wasted, because we are not planning this with a planned approach together? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 281-15(3): Reduction Of Federal Grants Due To Resource Revenues

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have not heard any regions say with any unanimous voice that they are not ready for the pipeline or for the economic opportunities we have today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. At this time the Chair is going to call a 15-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call the House back to order. Orders of the day, item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 8: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 47-15(3): Housing For Health Care Professionals

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have written questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, regarding housing for health care professionals.

1. What is the number of health care professionals per community, currently in need of affordable accommodations?
2. What is the number of social workers and health care professionals per community, who have not accepted work in small communities because of the lack of affordable housing?
3. What is the number of health care professionals that currently rent government-owned units and what are the rates of the rent that they pay?
4. Please provide details about what other jurisdictions in Canada provide housing for nurses and other health care professionals in remote communities.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Charles Dent.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 77-15(3): Renewing The Labour Standards Act Of The Northwest Territories, A Consultation Paper

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the document entitled Renewing the Labour Standards Act of the Northwest Territories, A Consultation Paper, October 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 13, tabling of documents. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Tabled Document 78-15(3): NWT Youth Corps Program 2003-2004 Report

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents: NWT Youth Corps Program, 2003-2004 Report.

Tabled Document 79-15(3): Community Initiatives Program 2003-2004 Report

I would also like to table the document entitled Community Initiatives Program, 2003-2004 Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Tabled Document 80-15(3): 2004 NWT Community Survey Report No. 2

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled 2004 NWT Community Survey, Community Housing Needs, Detailed Results, Report No. 2, October 2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 19-15(3): Benefits Of Our Northern Resources

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 25, 2004, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly endorses the Mackenzie gas project and supports efforts to ensure that northerners realize demonstrable net benefits from such projects;

And further that the Legislative Assembly urges the federal government to negotiate a fair resource revenue sharing agreement that provides northern governments with an equitable share of royalties from our hydrocarbons and minerals as essential to ensuring the people of the Northwest Territories are the primary beneficiaries of the development of our resources.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion she gave notice of earlier today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mrs. Groenewegen, you can proceed with your motion.

Motion 19-15(3): Benefits Of Our Northern Resources, Carried

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the 15th Legislative Assembly vision and goals document states that the people of the Northwest Territories should be the primary beneficiaries of the development of our resources;

AND WHEREAS there is no agreement at this time providing for Northwest Territories governments to benefit from a share of resource royalties;

AND WHEREAS it has been estimated, based on a natural gas price of \$4 U.S. per thousand cubic feet, the return over the next 30 years on a Mackenzie gas project, in the absence of a resource revenue sharing agreement, would be \$900 million for the GNWT compared with \$21.7 billion for the federal government;

AND WHEREAS our governments are losing out daily on substantial royalties from minerals and hydrocarbons which are continually leaving the territory to the benefit of the Government of Canada;

AND WHEREAS major resource development projects, while they create employment and business opportunities, also create substantial infrastructure and program demands on our governments, and hardships for residents in the form of higher costs for goods and services and social impacts;

AND WHEREAS the changes created by the proposed Mackenzie gas project and other developments will pose challenges for our residents and communities that our government does not have the means to address;

AND WHEREAS a network of protected areas has yet to be established to ensure the preservation of the land for future generations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly endorses the Mackenzie gas project and supports efforts to ensure that northerners realize demonstrable net benefits from such projects;

AND FURTHER that the Legislative Assembly urges the federal government to negotiate a fair resource revenue sharing agreement that provides northern governments with an equitable share of royalties from our hydrocarbons and minerals as essential to ensuring the people of the Northwest Territories are the primary beneficiaries of the development of our resources.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to obviously speak in favour of this motion. Mr. Speaker, as was indicated earlier in our deliberations today, we know that once again the leader of our government, Premier Joe Handley, will be going to Ottawa again with the message from this territory and from our government and northern governments that the time is now to act with respect to resource revenue sharing. Time is of the essence. I don't want to spend a lot of time reiterating the good comments of my colleagues here in the House today, but everyone knows that the resources of the Northwest Territories are being extracted at an ever-increasing rate and that every day that goes by in the absence of a resource revenue sharing agreement the Northwest Territories is losing out on resources which we are very much in need of. To that end, Mr. Speaker, we want to send our Premier armed with a very strong message when he goes to Ottawa that the development of

the Mackenzie gas pipeline is imminent and we need significant movement on the part of the federal government with northern governments to ensure we realize monetary benefits from this development. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my statement and comments for now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I throw my full support behind this motion and second it, due to the injustice that I see that's going on by the federal government and the struggles that we have as a territorial government in terms of providing adequate -- like any other Canadians -- basic, simple programming services. We could pay for it. We could do it. There are lots of people who have opinions that support that this government can sustain itself with the amount of dollars that have been coming out of the Northwest Territories over the years and the kinds of infrastructures that we have in the Northwest Territories.

Look in our small communities; they're just like Third World communities. We're struggling and people are saying to us in the small communities we have the Mackenzie Valley pipeline happening and the Norman Wells expansion oilfield over the last couple of years that it was put through, why are we struggling with all of these resources in our own territory? The federal government is strong-arming us and it's about time that we sit with them as equal partners and take them up on their word in terms of giving us a fair deal in terms of the resources. Otherwise it's going to be a struggle for us again.

I think in the whole scheme of things that our Premier and our government and the people who are working for us on our behalf need to go down with a strong mandate to Ottawa and say we would like to work out a deal with you to show that we're part of the confederacy within Canada here and that today we could stand up on our own two feet. Mr. Speaker, I think the bottom line is that we could pay our own way now. There are means and mechanisms that we could do it. I think the federal government now needs to really consider looking at taking the Northwest Territories as a serious partner in terms of helping all Canadians. Pay us what we need. Pay us what is owed to us.

With that said, in that sense, I'm not going to use too much of my time. I just want to thank the Members for their time and to say again I fully support this motion. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with considerable regret that I stand here to speak against the motion. I will take some time to qualify my position here. The moves that the Northwest Territories should make, Mr. Speaker -- and when I say Northwest Territories I include not only this government here, but our partners among the First Nations and in the communities -- we have to set some new thresholds, some new targets, some new bars for ourselves and for our partners at the federal level, too, if we are indeed going to achieve something in the way of a resource management regime that will mean something for us as a real part of Canada, Mr. Speaker. Because right now and with the information

and the processes and the track records that we have on our own account and in our negotiations and our attempts to get this kind of deal, we have failed over and over and over again, year after year after year, deal after deal after deal. We're not getting anywhere. In terms of expressing where I believe we should be going and the kind of ambitions and desires that we should be setting out, this motion does not go far enough. So I'd like to qualify that. I am not opposed to the words that are in here, but if this Assembly is going to do something proactive and make a difference then we're not going far enough in this motion.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Regular Members' side of the Assembly spoke, I thought, very well, very convincingly, of so many aspects of the state of our territory and its linkage with resources and the lack of a resource deal. Why are we stuck in so many different holding patterns, if you will? Why are things not progressing as rapidly or as positively as we would like? So many of the causes come back to our inability to make the kinds of decisions, to have the kinds of resources at our disposal that we would like to have if we're going to grow this territory. In the meantime, it's worth repeating, last year alone, \$200 million went into Ottawa's coffers, \$8 million went into ours. These are from the resource royalties in one year alone. Do the math, it just doesn't figure.

Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues -- I think it was Ms. Lee -- spoke to the social consequences of what's going on in this NWT right now and we have on one side to be thankful for a boom economy generated by the diamond play in the North Slave here and by the oil and gas resources that are coming out of the far western part of the territory. We see new trucks and booming retail sales all over the place as at least some of the signals of a very healthy and vibrant economy. But there are consequences. We have statistically looked at the consequences, Mr. Speaker, rising statistics of abuse, of violence, of domestic strife. Mrs. Groenewegen yesterday related a very disturbing story in her community of youth. We're not talking about older teenagers here, she was talking about kids under 14 and 15 who are really in serious trouble and our system, our infrastructure, our rules are ineffective when it comes to dealing with this. Yet we have all this wealth and all these resources going swirling around us, but we can't do anything at that level. This is a remarkably disappointing, disturbing and demoralizing, really, state of affairs for a government because these are the things that are in our control. Yet, let's look back again at the flow of the resources out of here.

Last year, the value of the resource was some \$2.2 billion, twice the value of the expenditures that this government puts into all our programs flowing out of here in one year. It's a remarkable comparison of where the wealth is going and where the need is, and we're not doing much of a job of it. Housing, literacy, justice issues; there are many families out there, Mr. Speaker, that are challenged by these things daily and now with this new regime or this new economy where it seems money and influence from drugs, from alcohol and from huge expectations of what people can achieve we're unable to deliver.

Mr. Speaker, on the social side, it is more and more frustrating to stand here, work here as an MLA knowing and watching the shareholders of these corporations around the world benefiting from our resources. That is their privilege and their right. They took a risk and I

compliment those companies on some amazing returns. But in the meantime, they get the profits, Ottawa gets the royalties, we get the heavy sledding. We have to do the heavy lifting on the social side. We don't have the tools or the resources to do it. Mr. Speaker, I've talked about the frustration of being in here and not being able to grow this territory. We're going backwards. This year and next, our Finance Minister has told us that we have to pare \$20 million a year off our budget. For four years running now, this Assembly and our committees and our bureaucracies have dealt with doom and gloom, debt and deficit every year because we haven't had the ability to see where the money is going to be coming from. Other than that, it's never going to be enough. But then every year for the last four years, somehow, Mr. Speaker, a truckload of money has driven up to the back door just at the last minute, we're saved, feel really good for a little while, we get some quick relief, but that dull ache from long-term pain comes back that says my gosh, we're still in a mess, we're still in debt, we're still in deficit next year and the year after that and the year after that. It's not a way to govern, Mr. Speaker, not knowing where we're going to go and what sense of control we're going to have over our affairs. To the motion that says we're looking for ways to secure resource revenue sharing, devolution arrangements, this motion does not go far enough.

I ran for this job. I believe I was elected to help grow this territory, to help expand and stretch and find new horizons. But I find, Mr. Speaker, that more and more of my attention and my decisions are going into, well, how much less can we do? How much do we have to cut back or hold off or defer or change our plans? I find that we are more and more just managing the essential services here and we're not able to move this economy; as exciting as I believe it is, we are in a state of suspension because we don't have the hope or the tools to see that we can make a change in our own future.

Mr. Speaker, I try to look at this, I guess, from the point of view of our partners, but yet our political and economic master is in Ottawa. The Premier told us earlier today that, indeed, on the devolution side, we're dealing with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. They have the mandate there. But on the resource revenue side we're dealing with the Department of Finance. The gaps here, the chasms, the grand canyons of difference between these two departments is chronic, it's legendary. I just don't know how we're going to see that these two agencies will really be able to come together and work on our behalf. The Premier has expressed optimism. It's his job to do that. But I would relate back to what I said is the track record of performance and progressive action on these things. I can't share that sense of optimism.

I guess I can't blame, in a sense, the folks at Finance Canada. You know, they're looking at a money stream that's growing by leaps and bounds from the Northwest Territories and maybe they're saying to themselves, well, after years and years and years of putting money into the Northwest Territories we finally have a chance here to see some payback. Why should they give any more of that money away than they absolutely need to? Why should they go out of their way to help us satisfy some of our desires when there's all this cash coming into an already cash-rich Ottawa? It's not their job, I guess, to help grow the country.

From the point of view of DIAND, you know, earlier today I talked about the mantle of colonialism and I don't know how else to explain it, Mr. Speaker. A group of mandarins, bureaucrats 4,000 kilometres from here who have an act that's, oh, I don't know, somebody was saying earlier today that the NWT Act first came about in 1870. So it's something that has been around for a long, long, long time. It's outdated, long past the time that Canada should be looking at its North not as a continuance of the colonial attitude, the "we know best" attitude, there aren't enough of you up there, you guys don't know what you're doing, you're never going to get your acts together, we'll have to look after these things for you. That has to change. Somehow Canada has to say, yes, we're going to give these people, northerners, aboriginal people, their say, their due. We're going to let them go to work, and on a new set of terms with Canada make their way in this confederation. Canada agreed to do that five years ago with Nunavut, an extraordinary experiment in democracy and nation building and a belief in people. They're having their tough times over in Nunavut, but they've got something to believe in, that they've asked for, and that they are going to make a difference with. I think we should be asking the same, and that is why this motion does not go far enough.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I would conclude this statement with an appeal to Members in this House to truly consider if we are going to take this opportunity to send a message out, is this the message that we should be sending. Should we not be sending one that says live up to the deal that everybody signed on March 18th of this year? Regrettably we've heard from the Premier that if it's not already abandoned it's not worth pursuing, because whatever circumstances have changed. The advent of the pipeline is something that we've all watched and anticipated with great expectations for coming on 30 years now. It's virtually at our doorstep, but in the absence of certainty, confidence in what it's going to mean for us, how we are going to be able to manage it. Is this the deal that we should be standing up and saying no, not until we know for sure this time what it means for northerners? That's going to an extreme length I know in some peoples' minds, but at what point are we going to allow ourselves to go in such short-term thinking, so disconnected, so unorganized in our thinking and our planning and our belief that we are just going to continue to allow this to happen for years and years and years to come? We will never be able to realize what I think can and should be our true place in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for this opportunity to speak on the motion and I believe it's doable and I believe it's time.

---Applause

As the honourable Member for Great Slave had indicated yesterday, an act governing the NWT was created in 1870 in Ottawa, and I believe that the territorial aspirations for wanting their own revenues and their share of royalties began one day after that act was created. So that's 134 years ago, Mr. Speaker, yet we're still on the same path and Ottawa certainly still has the old colonial mentality when it comes to our treatment for ourselves here in the Northwest Territories.

Just specific to the motion, Mr. Speaker, I'm a strong believer that, yes, we should maximize our benefit from this pipeline. I was a young man once...

---Laughter

...and it was about 1983, I had just finished school and they were talking about that first oil pipeline back then. I was quite opposed to it because I knew that that's the land I grew up on and used, and what kind of benefits are we going to get from it. So I fought along with everybody else in saying look, you are not ramming this thing down our land without giving us some significant long-term benefits. So we stood there and we battled and we battled and we lost that battle, Mr. Speaker, based on national interest.

But there's one important lesson that I would like to learn from that, and that's that we spent all our energy opposing the pipeline at that time and we forgot about taking care of our people and boosting our infrastructure. I just want to make people aware that this time we're not going to do that. We've got to take a better approach, and our government is going to have to help us do it this time. I asked the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development earlier in the House today, Mr. Speaker, about what our socioeconomic plan is, if we are going to be interveners, what role are we going to play instead of just rolling over, and I still contend that. This is just one step of doing it, we say here, okay, we do have interest in our land and we do want to take care of it. In fact, the riding that I represent is called Nahendeh. I mentioned to a couple people it means our land and, in fact, technically it does, but technically it doesn't, Mr. Speaker. What it really means is that the land is with us. Nahendeh -- the land is with us, and I kind of referred to that in my Member's statement is that from the land, our historical economic base was trapping and we're using furs, the furs were providing for our needs, and now it's different. Now here's an opportunity for the land to still be with us by allowing us wealth, by accessing the gas and oil and other renewable resources that exist in our territory, Mr. Speaker, that we have to sell to Ottawa that they have to recognize that it's time to give us some control over those resources and that's all we're asking.

This motion is giving us an avenue to say okay, devolution is not going to be a reality in the next couple of years, but here's an opportunity in the absence of devolution let's take this pipeline, let's consider some kind of interim resource revenue sharing deal for that pipeline alone. Of course, I like their approach that all northern governments are going to have to partake because, particularly in my riding, I've got the Deh Cho First Nations who have the same aspirations and have maintained it since time immemorial that we want control of our resources, and I'm sure that jointly with the support of the government this can be achievable with the Deh Cho First Nations as well, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, there's one thing I wish to speak to with regard to pipelines is that even the first oil pipeline was built in 1985 and they had a free ride for 20 years. They had a free ride for 20 years and no one said okay, let's look at this and start garnishing some resource revenues from that pipeline as well. So I'd like to put it to the government in this motion, let's look at that as well, let's start today...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

Thank you. We are really going to have to seriously consider that. What are we going to do, give them another free ride for another 20 years? I don't think so, Mr. Speaker. I put that to government as well. When they are in Ottawa saying let's look at this pipeline, there's also concern about the existing one, you're deriving revenues from it. I personally believe it's wrong. It's something that should have been done in 1985. That, too, I still believe is doable because we can start negotiations with that. Retroactive, certainly. Basically that's the message in this motion and I support it fully. I would just like to ask government that when you are there talking about this motion, that you talk about that first pipeline as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to this motion. Mr. Speaker, obviously the pipeline train is coming toward us and it's probably actually right at our doorstep with the filing of the application just a few days ago. There's no question we, as a government, are feeling squeezed because there are lots of things that we wanted to have in place before this pipeline project becomes a reality in order that our jurisdiction and our people receive the maximum benefits out of such a megaproject, a project that would be ranked worldwide as one of the biggest projects of our time. Mr. Speaker, I know that there's no question and I know myself and I'm sure people in my riding would like to see this pipeline go through and we would like to see the Mackenzie Valley pipeline go first because we know that if the Alaskan pipeline goes first for any reason, then there's a very good chance that the Mackenzie Valley pipeline will get behind in the line-up maybe for an indefinite period of time.

It is a very good thing that a group like APG -- Aboriginal Pipeline Group -- has been so successful by working very diligently and step by step and on time to place themselves in a position to maximize the benefits that would come from the pipeline construction and the distribution of gas that would go through those pipelines for a long time to come. Mr. Speaker, their partnership with the industry consortium made up of the biggest players in the industry have really marked a new beginning and a new chapter on aboriginal equity partnerships. The real qualitative partnership, unprecedented in its scale and in its substance, and I really congratulate them for that. I want to formally recognize the leadership of Mr. Fred Carmichael and the former Premier, Nellie Cournoyea, in that regard.

The regrettable thing, Mr. Speaker, is that the same cannot be said about many other important players in the North, and I think we really ought to in this House be mindful of that fact. That is a burden on this Assembly and we, as leaders, have to work harder to see how we could bring this circle into a full circle and that everybody is included in this resource development, that everybody feels like they are a part of this project and that they would all benefit from this project in a way that they think they ought to. I really think that as we debate and we await and we prepare for this pipeline, we need to really address our mind to that. It should really concern us all, Mr. Speaker, that we have a whole region in Deh Cho who have filed injunctions on this. It's not directly related, but

it's sort of an issue that speaks to a lot of things. What that tells me is that there is a genuine concern and grievances that we really need to address collectively. Mr. Speaker, this Legislature, the Premier and the federal government and all its responsible Ministers and the Prime Minister, I believe, must sit down and address the grievances of Deh Cho people and work out a settlement acceptable to all the parties involved. They must negotiate, and negotiate hard, to resolve this. If there is a will there and if they sit long enough, an agreement should be able to be reached.

Mr. Speaker, another big area that we haven't resolved -- and it's 25 or 26 years since the Berger Inquiry made major recommendations about what needed to be done before the pipeline should come North -- there are still lots of issues that remain unresolved, and I think Mr. Braden talked to some of that. Another big area I could think of that's unresolved is the devolution of a province like ours from Ottawa to the North. Mr. Speaker, we know that the city of Yellowknife is the diamond capital of North America and it's not Vancouver and that the DeBeers Snap Lake mine that will be operating in the near future is the first mine owned and operated by DeBeers that is situated outside of the African continent. These diamond mines have put Canada on the world map as one of the most prolific diamond producers in the world, yet the Government of the Northwest Territories is not responsible for mines. The Minister of Mines for the Northwest Territories is situated in Ottawa. We also know that this megaproject of the pipeline, oil and gas project, we know that the Minister responsible for energy is not our very own Mr. Bell, or honourable Minister Bell, as much as we would like him to be. The Minister of Energy for the NWT is sitting in Ottawa. Ministers of Energy, Ministers of Mines, Ministers of Labour, all of those important areas that impact what we do and the kind of decision-making that we want to do and are capable of doing, we don't have jurisdiction over them.

AN HON. MEMBER: Appalling.

MS. LEE: We have been negotiating this for as long as we have been a government, as long as we have had a Legislature here, as long as we became a responsible government and no longer populated by appointees from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Every Member of this Legislature who ever ran and got elected has had on their agenda devolution as their major task.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MS. LEE: It doesn't appear to be that we are making much progress there. I know that we have our negotiators, but we still haven't heard much about what's going on in that area. So while I support and I know that everyone here supports the economic gains and economic benefits that will come from the pipeline, it is really with heavy heart, because we have no guarantee that we are going to get our share of the resource revenues that we want to see and that we still don't have power and control over things that we need to have in order to make the right public policies and guidelines and regulations that we need to have in place, not to mention the money that we need to have to build the social and economic infrastructures to get ready for these megaprojects like pipeline development.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to put those two thoughts into this debate, but on balance I am going to support this

motion because I just think it is important to give the Premier and the Minister of Finance as they travel to Ottawa to show to the government and people in Ottawa that we mean business and that this is very important to us, and that if they want to see the pipeline go through that they have to sit down and work out deals with us on resource revenue sharing. As well, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that we, as a Legislature, should not lose sight of the fact that we really need to have devolution of provincial-like powers, but it is about time because we are ready and we are able. We need to push them forward, and also I need to make clear that we really have an obligation as this Legislature and all aboriginal governments that we bring along all our brothers and sisters together, not one region without the other and that everybody gets their claims settled and their agreements from the federal government so that everybody feels like and everybody has what they need to feel like they are a full participant in these great discoveries and great adventures into pre-pipeline NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I won't be as long. I see this pipeline not like a train, but I get the image of more like a hurricane or tsunami taking over Florida. It is just going to come through the Northwest Territories, destroy our little towns and villages. So anybody in a trailer or whatnot better watch out, because these big oil companies are coming in.

Mr. Speaker, it's paramount, it's not just critical, it's paramount that we receive primary benefits, substantial benefits, from this. In the Northwest Territories, we truly are the stewards of this land. However, I really doubt we have a veto on this project. There is nothing for us to hold our hands on our six-shooters and say this project shouldn't happen. There is nothing. All the Prime Minister has to do is say well, national energy crisis, sorry, we are railroading this project through. Again, I use the train reference but it should be more like a hurricane or a tsunami that is going to come through and take this stuff. So it is really sad to think that our veto power really doesn't exist, because national policy will take precedence over us.

Some people would say well, \$900 million sounds like a lot of money, but when you equate that over 30 years, that's \$30 million a year. I mean, do I hear the federal government saying they are going to deal with our social realities when they come? Disposable income is going to certainly sky-rocket in this area for a number of years. The pipeline is going to take a couple of years to build and the social problems that come with that are going to be here too.

So \$30 million a year over 30 years sounds like a lot of money, but when you now have to pay for treatment centres, that don't exist today, that will have to be built, those things are going to cost a lot of money. Those are realities. So we need royalties that respect the job that we are going to have to do in the future and that needs to be a realistic approach, because it's costing us money to get ready for this.

I am sorry to say, in my heart, I really believe unless something changes dramatically, and I appreciate the optimism of our Premier, I really do, but we need something concrete that tells me it's not going to cost us more money than we will be receiving. I don't know what to say. Do we need a crisis like what happened in Oka to get the world's attention, to get Canada's attention to say something needs to happen? But we need something that screams loud and clear out there to say well, wait a minute. A lot of folks will be saying there will be employment and business opportunities, and I agree on a very micro level there will be areas, for certain, and it certainly will be good for all. But what about the words of training?

The Northwest Territories should be setting up as of today to try to be the NAIT of the Northwest Territories. We need a training centre to teach those skills that will come with this, to make sure that we don't have 5,000 welders. We need to make sure that we have people balanced in all types of trades out there to be able to have a real future. We need to spread out trade development, we need to get more carpenters out there. Heck, we need every trade. I won't get into how much. But when we look at the diamond strategies and things right now, did this government learn any lessons from trying to deal with these multinational companies on the diamond level? I mean, right now I think we are being treated like a Third World country.

Are there lessons learned? I don't know. I really believe in the long run, after the pipeline gears up and leaves, that we are going to have maybe maximum 50 jobs. So the legacy won't be how many jobs are going to be here in the end, because I don't think that there are going to be even 50 jobs to run this pipeline. There is going to be one head office somewhere in the Northwest Territories. There are going to be probably three or four employees at that head office, there are probably going to be three or four employees at each little increment along the pipeline, maybe a couple in Fort Simpson, maybe a couple in Norman Wells, maybe a couple in Inuvik to make sure it keeps running. We are not going to be looking at a big legacy once this pipeline is up and running. So, I don't know, I don't want to see us sell out our protected areas, you know our watershed areas. I don't want to see us sell our souls on this deal. Because we say we want the pipeline. I just don't want the pipeline at any cost.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just going to close with a couple of small points. The first one is a fair agreement. It needs to be demonstrated and if we don't receive a fair agreement, and we don't start to get that sense now, we should start figuring out how to stop the pipeline until we do. Because we want the pipeline, I want the pipeline, but we want the benefits that come with it. As long as the federal government receives the benefits, I think northerners are spending all their money from the northern perspective. Right now, I'm nervous. I have to tell you, I am really nervous.

Mr. Speaker, the last point I'm going to say is that the fact that all northern governments, be it aboriginal governments, be it the territorial government, all northern governments will be there to pick up the pieces after the tsunami comes through and wipes us all out through their economic development. Because for anyone to think that we can stop a multinational company like those out there - I won't name them, but we all know who they are -- they are going to come through. We are just little peanuts to

them. They are going to come through and they are going to steam through, this oil pipeline is going to come through because they want it to. And you know what? They get face time with the Prime Minister, probably more than our Premier, and that is probably what we have to remember. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That is all I have to say on this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will start of by saying that I do support the motion and I do support the work of my colleagues on this side of the House as well as the government in asking the questions and putting this issue to the forefront today. I think it is important that it gets the air time it gets. I also wanted to mention that, now more than ever, I think it's important that as Regular Members we support the Premier and we support his government in his going to Ottawa and trying to get us a deal. I know we have been at this a long time and it's about time that we did get a fair deal.

I don't know if the motion goes far enough. I would like to see a little bit more teeth in the motion, Mr. Speaker, but it does set the stage for the Premier's trip to Ottawa and give the government in Ottawa some indication of our displeasure at how we have been treated and how we have been taken advantage of for the past number of years. As well, I wanted to, while I've got the floor, make mention of the fact that most Members are familiar with my feelings toward the government in Ottawa and how I believe, that being that they were in a majority situation for the past number of years, that having changed in May of this year to a minority situation, I think now more than ever, it would be advantageous for our government to make friends with both the New Democratic Party of Canada and the Conservative Party to try to work some things out and get our agenda to be part of their agenda in Ottawa. I think that could pay huge dividends for us here in the Northwest Territories.

My Member's statement today talked about the need to set up a permanent trust fund and this is something that I, you know again, feel very strongly about and I don't know how Ottawa could answer to the Government of the Northwest Territories and say no to that. I think that that's just fundamental. I mean, they are our resources, we should get some resource royalties from those resources and it should be set aside until we settle our differences and they settle their differences with us. I don't understand how they could say no to that.

Again, I do support the motion that is in front of us and it's a very important issue and I am supportive of the pipeline being built down the Mackenzie Valley, but, again, not at any cost. I am supportive of that happening and I feel that the majority of this Assembly support that happening, and we just want to ensure that what is rightfully ours we get back. I think that's a fair enough deal for Ottawa to imagine.

The other thing that I just want to mention before I close, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that -- and I know that one of my colleagues had mentioned it earlier -- Ottawa has been getting resource revenue royalties from us for a number of years, especially on the Norman Wells pipeline. We should start discussing whether or not we want to go after that money retroactively. That is not a stretch of the imagination, Mr. Speaker. I think we should be discussing

that, as well. We've got one diamond mine that has been in production for a number of years, it's probably halfway through its mine life and we haven't gotten any royalties from that, or hardly any. Ottawa still gets the lion's share of royalties from that mine, as well. Again, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion and I would encourage everyone, now more than ever, to put their support behind the Premier and his government to try to get us a deal with Ottawa; a fair deal at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 6, 2004, when the northern leaders from all regions of the NWT met to discuss northern issues, this motion, which I am in favour of, Mr. Speaker, is specific to one of these main concerns orated by all at this meeting.

The concern we as government leaders have, and obligation we have, is to communicate to the federal government on behalf of our constituents all the wishes that were brought up during those meetings. This motion, although it's part of a larger picture, is a step in the right direction that was set in that meeting, a direction toward shared stewardship towards our land and our resources. It is not only fair and equitable, but also long overdue. Resource revenue sharing will not only give northerners more opportunities to diversify our partnerships with other northern governments, but also allow this government to work more closely with aboriginal governments and with its people knowing we are receiving some benefits from all the resources that are flowing out of the NWT.

Even though we do have various opinions on why the motion should be passed in the House and why it should be supported by all Members for a leader to bring to the federal level, I think we can't forget about why the real meat of the motion is to benefit the people who aren't receiving benefits today. We can all sit in this room and talk about benefits that we can realize in the future, but when we really turn around and look at ourselves, we are all receiving benefits today. We all get paycheques every two weeks. We have houses to live in. We have education and health care. Mr. Speaker, I still have to remind everybody that we do have a lot of northerners in the streets of Yellowknife, in the small communities and in the bush, trapping and hunting, who are very poor in the true sense of the word. Many of them still can't read or write. Many of them don't have any social assistance. Many of them don't get any consideration by government for any form of assistance or trapping fund or any community support of any kind and they don't ask for any. It's people like that is the intent of this motion. That's why I feel we should all support the motion and ensure the message does go through to the federal government that we do care about everybody right from the trapline to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting this motion. However, as my colleague from Frame Lake has indicated, I don't think that this particular motion has as much teeth as it should have.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is only a portion of what we have been trying to do for the last number of years. In March, the majority of the aboriginal groups, the government and the Government of Canada signed the Lands and Resource Devolution Framework Agreement. Within that particular agreement, there are provisions there for them to negotiate resource revenue sharing. Because time is of the essence and our Premier will be going to Ottawa, I think it would be appropriate at this time to indicate that the Mackenzie Valley gas project has been submitted for review.

We also heard about the Alaskan gas pipeline, which the Senate is supporting with an enormous amount of money. I think it's about time we give our Premier ammunition to go to Ottawa and lobby on our behalf, so we can start negotiating our resource revenue sharing with the Government of Canada.

As I indicated today, Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement with regard to strong leadership, I think the Premier has indicated today to some of the questions Members have posed to him, that he has support from the majority of the northern leadership, including ourselves on this side of the House. I think we have to do more. It's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that only the Premier and the Deputy Premier will be attending this meeting in Ottawa. If it's not too late, I hope the Premier would also invite some of the key leaders from the different regions to go with him, so they can lobby not only the government in power, but the other Members as Mr. Ramsay has said, the opposition, the NDP and others in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's about time, as others have said. Every day we are losing money from the resources going to Ottawa. I think we have to send a strong message to Ottawa that we mean business and it's about time. We are mature now and I think it's about time we can manage our own affairs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. ZOE: With that, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the motion. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to say first that Cabinet will be voting in support of this motion.

---Applause

We do appreciate very much the strong support that the Members have taken for the position that has been put forward in this motion.

Mr. Speaker, this pipeline project is the biggest project in recent Canadian history and its happening in our territory. We can't sit back and just be happy that we've got the biggest project and be satisfied with that. I agree with the Members and with northerners, if not all northerners, that we also have to have a fair resource revenue sharing arrangement. We have to have a fair amount of that money stay in the North.

Mr. Speaker, that is important to us. We've heard numbers already about how much money is being made

in oil and gas and diamonds and how little of it stays in the North compared to what goes to the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, this project is huge. It's so big that the oil and gas companies...Imperial has told they have to start booking space in the steel mills this coming January in order to have the steel pipes that they need when construction happens in 2007 or whatever their schedule is. They need to start booking it now. This is huge.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe and maybe every government believes it's at a critical point, but I believe we are. We have a lot of the aboriginal claims settled. We have a number that are underway. We have a mood out there that says we want to get on with this and we want to work positively towards settling the processes, settling self-government, setting devolution, getting a good resource revenue sharing. People want to get things done. We have the right mood, economic activities and the right political agenda moving along.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this next three or four years, and hopefully within the three years left in the life of this government, we are going to be able to set a course for our government and for the North that is going to result in long-term, sustainable benefits and a strong economy. We probably have 20 to 40 years of good oil and gas and mining activity that we know about, but we have to think longer term than that and set the stage now to have things done right.

Mr. Speaker, I like the idea, as being raised by some Members, about a heritage fund or a trust fund. I think it's time for us to begin to talk about putting some money aside for the future. That will certainly be one of the messages that we will take to Ottawa this trip and on future trips. It is something we will talk further with the aboriginal leaders about.

Mr. Speaker, as we move ahead on this we want to work together with all northerners and we also want to work with the federal government and all Canadians. We want to work with the aboriginal leaders, with the municipal leaders, with business leaders, and with the people generally in the North. We know there are going to be differences and we're going to have arguments and it's going to take some compromise on all our parts. But we also know that there's an attitude out there that we want to move ahead with this and we want to find ways of making it work. We're not going to stop or walk away from the table every time there is a disagreement about a particular point. We'll find a way of working together. I think we have made a lot of good headway on that, starting with the meeting of the Circle of Northern Leaders last year and subsequent meetings that have been followed up.

I like the attitude we have in this House, Mr. Speaker. I think it's a very positive one that sends the right message to Ottawa and to the people in the North that we are working hard on their behalf, because it's on behalf of the people that we're here. I've heard a number of Members make reference to that, that what really counts here is the extent to which we make a difference in people's lives.

Mr. Speaker, even before the pipeline is moving ahead we have begun, as a government, to take steps not only in negotiating resource revenues, but also preparing people. There are a lot of training initiatives that are going on right now and a good example of working together is the ASEP money that was announced, the Aboriginal Skills

Employment Partnership. There's training happening today as we speak. There's a Pipeline Operation Training Committee that is in place. There's apprenticeship training going on. We're getting ready.

Mr. Speaker, to be clear, it isn't just about the pipeline. The pipeline is really just the beginning because, yes, there's only going to be a few jobs on the pipeline, but the pipeline is going to enable and encourage a lot of other development to take place. It's that other development, the exploration, the development, all of the systems that come together as we take advantage of this opportunity that are going to make a difference. I see the pipeline as being a way of getting benefits for many, many years, but not forever because it's a non-renewable resource and we've got to, now in this Assembly, chart a course that's going to take us for a look at the next 40, 50, 100 years of what's our future. We are going to see a lot of change in the next little while.

Mr. Speaker, I feel strongly that we need to take advantage of this kind of economic opportunity. There has been mention of competing pipelines or other alternatives people can look at, but, I tell you, it is a lot better to deal with the social impacts that this pipeline may bring -- and no doubt it will bring some social problems, whether it's drugs or people spending money in ways that they shouldn't be -- there will be problems, but I tell you it is a lot better to have this kind of activity and employment, that positive feeling, than it is to have nothing and just have despair and suicide and just a lot of sadness and frustration in people's homes. We support this project. We feel strongly that we can, as 19 Members here, chart a course that is going to take advantage of this and use it in a way that it will benefit everyone.

Environmental concerns are certainly a big issue and again, as a government, we feel very strongly about it. We feel very strongly about the Protected Areas Strategy. We strongly encourage the federal government to find those few million dollars they need in order to move ahead with that Protected Areas Strategy and, also, to take on the other environmental challenges we face in the North. It isn't just protected areas, it is also the remnants of old development that we see all over the Northwest Territories, from Great Bear Lake to around this area to everywhere. That kind of stuff has to be cleaned up, and we'll continue to work with the federal government to make sure that is happening.

Mr. Speaker, I am maybe too optimistic in some people's eyes, but I am very encouraged by the Prime Minister's interest in the North. His first trip as the Prime Minister was to Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. He has also included in the Throne speech the commitment to work on a new vision for the North. This wouldn't be a federal initiative that the federal government would go and develop our vision for us, but one that would be worked out with us and with aboriginal leaders and with all northerners, in fact.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a project that we strongly support. I believe as part of the new vision, devolution has to be a key piece. I've heard some Members talk about devolution. We're not in this discussion today ignoring devolution or setting it on a back burner or anything like that. Devolution has to happen. We have to have control over our own resources and we will continue to work on that agenda. As I said earlier, there are meetings going on next week at negotiations. We will continue it. I'm told that

we could have an agreement-in-principle as early as the end of the year. We're going to continue to move that agenda along as well, and certainly not take our eye off it.

In the immediate term, Mr. Speaker, we need to stop the bleeding of those resource revenues from the Territories to the South, and take some action that is going to result in a quick agreement that will keep some of those resources here to be spent today on some of the social needs in particular, some of the infrastructure needs, but also for some I hope to be set aside as a heritage or a trust fund for future.

There are a lot of areas we need to do more in. I mentioned training; we're doing a lot and that's happening and we're proud of what we're doing in training. We are beginning to prepare communities for the impacts of the pipeline. We are, as I mentioned, taking steps on the environmental side and making our views known and ready to put our money on the table to ensure the Protected Areas Strategy moves ahead. We're doing a lot on mitigating a lot of the social impacts that we know are going to come along with this.

But, Mr. Speaker, in spite of the social impacts, let me just say anybody who has doubts about the value of some of these big projects, take a drive down in Detah and Ndilo, two communities in my constituency. I tell you, there are a lot of people who have a very positive improvement in their lifestyle as a result of good jobs in the mining industry. I see people living in big houses, I see people taking their kids to hockey, I see people with boats, with ski-doods. They have not lost their contact with the land, but it has made a big difference. Yes, there are problems, but we're working as a government with all people to be able to overcome some of those.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by saying that we're very appreciative of the debate and the statements that have been made today. These are strong statements and they certainly will help us, the Minister of Finance and I, as we go to Ottawa. The meetings in Ottawa are going to focus largely on our territorial financing formula and on equalization with the provinces. But we also have an opportunity while we're there to meet with Ministers on this issue, on resource revenues. We also have an opportunity to talk with the Prime Minister about the vision for the North. Mr. Speaker, let me close with that and say I do really appreciate the statements that are being said today and I can tell you that these are being listened to in Ottawa. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The Chair will recognize the mover of the motion for closing comments. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today was a good day in the Legislative Assembly in that I believe we, as elected Members, sit on committees and sit through briefings and at conferences all the time on the subject of the Mackenzie gas pipeline, and quite often we begin to assume that everyone in the public has access to the same kind of information and the same kind of debate that we do. So I think we accomplished something good here today in the fact that we have provided a strong message for our Premier and our Deputy Premier as they go off to Ottawa. As the Premier said, people will be listening to this. We've taken

a strong position, but I believe it is a good position and I think that the culmination of the day's comments and questions are reflected in this motion that has been brought forward.

I know that there is some concern that perhaps the motion didn't go far enough in terms of bringing in the question of devolution, but, Mr. Speaker, I support the premise that devolution is a subject which does need to be pursued. If we can break off a piece that can give us a tangible result in terms of an interim agreement on royalties, then we will have accomplished something.

It is a mammoth task. We do wish the Premier well in his deliberations and communications with the federal officials and, with that, Mr. Speaker, I just thank the Members for their input and participation in this and we will request a recorded vote. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Member is requesting a recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion, please rise.

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Menicoche, Ms. Lee, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Roland, Mr. Handley, Mr. Dent, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Bell, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Braden.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstaining, please rise. Results: the motion is carried with 16 Members in support, one Member opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 17: Modernization Of Benefits And Obligations Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 17, Modernization of Benefits and Obligations Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Dent.

Bill 18: An Act To Amend The Territorial Court Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 17 and Bill 18 have had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS**Bill 15: Tlicho Community Services Agency Act**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 15, Tlicho Community Services Agency Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill established the Tlicho Community Services Agency, to perform functions related to education, health and social services in Tlicho communities and on Tlicho lands. The agency is required by the Tlicho Intergovernmental Services Agreement made under the Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement.

The agency will be an agent of the Government of the Northwest Territories and will be a public agency listed in schedule A of the Financial Administration Act. Since most of its employees will be public servants, the agency will be listed in schedule A of the Public Service Act.

The agency will be composed of five members. Each community government will appoint one member and the fifth member will be a chairperson appointed by the Minister.

In accordance with the Tlicho Intergovernmental Services Agreement, the agency will continue to perform the functions of the Dogrib Divisional Education Council under the Education Act, including delivering the kindergarten to Grade 12 education program in accordance with standards established by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The agency will also continue to perform the functions of the Dogrib Community Services Board, including the functions of a board of management under the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act and other acts in accordance with applicable laws and with standards established by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The agency may, with the consent of the Government of the Northwest Territories, perform additional roles assigned or delegated to it by the Tlicho government or by the Government of Canada.

The existing Dogrib Divisional Education Council and the Dogrib Community Services Board will be dissolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of this bill. I can't tell you how happy I am to see this day. It's been a long time coming.

---Applause

The only day I'll be happier is when this bill and the bill that is now working its way through Parliament have both been made into law and our Tlicho agreement can finally be put into effect.

Mr. Speaker, this is the last of the three bills the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories needs to pass to do our part to bring the Tlicho agreement into force. It's very encouraging to see this bill and the federal bill introduced this week. The Tlicho people have been waiting a long time for this. It took many years of long, difficult, expensive negotiations to get here.

The Tlicho agreement is groundbreaking and sets a new standard across Canada. This is a new relationship we're building and there's no doubt in my mind that this is good for the Tlicho, for the Northwest Territories, and for Canada as a whole. The collaboration between the Tlicho team and the Government of the Northwest Territories team to draft this legislation is an example of this new relationship, and they should be commended for that. Their hard work on this bill is very much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for bringing this bill to the House during this session and I look forward to seeing it enacted in the near future. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 15 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation. The purpose of the corporation is to support the economic objectives of the Government of the Northwest Territories

by encouraging the creation and development of business enterprises and by providing information and financial assistance to, and making investments in, such enterprises. This bill also repeals the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the principle of the bill. I'd like to see the fact that this bill helps to redefine how we deal with things. Mr. Speaker, the old bill dealt with confidentiality, as rumoured, being told, as the bank-of-well-connected. I hope this new bill brings forward better rules for better disclosure and I look forward to that.

Mr. Speaker, the business development fund was set out to help business and I'm glad that this is being updated and replaced. But when I read the report we see \$100,000 in a way of being treated as a travel agency, not to business development. Mr. Speaker, I see it as not a recovery plan, I see it not to save businesses from lost revenue or outstanding fees that they couldn't pay, I see it as supporting businesses to help them with tools. In principle I want to say that this new bill brings forward those types of initiatives to help support businesses. So I support the bill in principle and I look forward to the open discussion we will have once it's on the road. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 16 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. 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; and, Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Madam Chair, I wish to report progress.

AN HON. MEMBER: Say it again.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The motion is in order, it's not debatable. All

those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Could I get the report of Committee of the Whole, please? Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Minister of Finance, the Honourable Floyd Roland.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 14 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): Orders of the day for Friday, October 22nd, at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 16, Appointment of Sole Adjudicators
 - Motion 17, Appointment of Human Rights Adjudication Panel
 - Motion 18, Single Power Rate Zone
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 17, Modernization of Benefits and Obligations Act
 - Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court 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
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, October 22, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

