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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Friday, October 22, 2004

Members Present

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Hawkins, Honourable David Krutko, Ms. Lee, Honourable Michael McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good morning, Members. Before I go on, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and offer my collective thanks to the Pages who have been serving us so well in this House over the past two weeks. They are from Range Lake North School and Ecole St. Joseph School in Yellowknife. Thank you for a job well done and good luck in your studies for the rest of the year.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 62-15(3): Canadian Young Worker Memorial Life Quilt

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to all Members about the Canadian Young Worker Memorial Life Quilt that will be unveiled today at 12:00 noon in the Great Hall.

The memorial life quilt, Mr. Speaker, pays tribute to those young workers involved in a workplace injury.

The quilt was created in 2003 for the Day of Mourning and was sewn together by volunteer quilters from across Canada. The quilt is a lasting memorial to 100 young workers aged 15 to 24, who were killed at work. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, it spreads a powerful message about the importance of accident prevention in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT and Nunavut have three panels affixed to the quilt for the young workers that lost their lives while on the job. They are Jason Stewart, Peter Barnabas and Michael Daniska. The families of these young workers will be present during the unveiling of the quilt. I invite all Members to pay their respects to both the families and the memorial life quilt later today.

The memorial life quilt has been brought to the NWT as a prelude to the WCB's "What if You Couldn't" National Young Workers' Safety Conference that also commences today. Mr. Speaker, over 100 young workers and their supervisors representing seven provinces and territories along with six foreign countries will gather this weekend at the first ever North of 60 Youth Safety Conference hosted by the Workers' Compensation Board.

I commend the WCB for taking the initiative and making prevention the focus for our northern young workers to stop the cycle of workplace injuries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 63-15(3): Northwest Territories Youth Abroad Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce an exciting new pilot program to provide leadership opportunities for young people in the Northwest Territories: the Northwest Territories Youth Abroad Program.

The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister responsible for Youth and I, as Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, have agreed to jointly contribute start up funding for a pilot project that will operate over the next two years. This NWT pilot project will be operated under the direction of the Nunavut Youth Abroad Society and coordinated by Northwest Territories volunteers to involve young people from across the North.

In 1997, a group of educators in what is now Nunavut envisioned a comprehensive program to encourage young people to gain the experience and skills that would equip them to be future leaders of their territory. Subsequently, the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program was formed. At the time, the GNWT provided start-up funding to support the effort.

Mr. Speaker, the Youth Abroad Program is designed to take young people from smaller communities who haven't travelled much beyond their local area and who show potential as leaders and to assist these youth obtain a variety of academic and life skills they can use in their future. These skills include an emphasis on succeeding in school and the development of a view of life beyond our borders.

After acceptance into the program, each participant must complete career and technology studies courses that are part of the NWT school curriculum. Participants will be matched with a local mentor and participate in skill development sessions. Ultimately, participants will go in groups of two to stay with a family in southern Canada and be placed in a summer job for a period of five weeks with the support of program workers. This support is key to the program's success.

At the end of the first summer, participants return home and continue their academic studies in their home communities with post-placement activities.

In Nunavut, it was demonstrated that this link with the school system helped students to stay in school or, if they had already opted out, drew them back into the system. Of the young people who participated in the Nunavut

program, 96 percent continued on to complete their secondary education and graduate. It's important to note that some of these youth were initially identified as being at-risk, so these results are dramatic, indeed.

Once the NWT pilot program has been completed and assessed, consideration will be given to continuing onwards to the second phase of the NWT Youth Abroad Program.

Mr. Speaker, in phase two, youth who have completed the southern Canadian placement, may go on to international placements.

By the Government of the Northwest Territories making this two-year contribution to the Northwest Territories Youth Abroad Program, we are making an investment in the future leaders of tomorrow. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Minister's Statement 64-15(3): National Foster Family Week

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the week of October 17th to 23rd is National Foster Family Week. I would like to take a moment to recognize the valuable contribution that foster families make to our communities and our children.

Foster families form an important network of safe, caring homes for children. They have a very challenging and demanding role and provide care for children when parents are unable. There are about 200 foster homes in the NWT that give children a stable, nurturing home environment. It is encouraging to see that so many people in our territory have offered to care for children. Over the past few years we have seen an increase in the number of extended family foster homes.

Mr. Speaker, foster parents are an integral part of our child and family services. Their work goes beyond providing children with food and shelter. They offer children a supportive environment while supporting their interaction with their birth families. They are key members of a team dedicated to helping children and youth work through problems. Foster parents work with the social workers in their communities to meet individual educational, medical and developmental needs.

The children in foster care range in age from infants to teenagers. They include children from every part of our territory. Our foster families have welcomed these children into their homes, and should be admired and congratulated for the services they provide every day.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT. This organization strengthens the network of foster families. They advocate for children, provide a support network and participate in the development and delivery of foster family training all over the NWT. The coalition is an important resource for foster parents, to help them understand that they are not alone and that there are others who can support them through difficult times.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on families throughout our territory to become foster families. I ask the Members of this House to join me in applauding the efforts of those who have taken up this service throughout the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 65-15(3): NWT Status Of Women Council Board Appointments

HON. CHARLES DENT: I am pleased to announce today the latest appointment and reappointments to the Status of Women Council of the NWT.

Patricia Lamouelle of Rae-Edzo has been appointed for a term of three years and Lynn Brooks of Yellowknife, Lorayne Menicoche-Moses of Fort Simpson, and Geraldine Sharpe-Staples of Inuvik have been reappointed for terms of three years.

These women will join Betty Tsetso of Deline and Therese Dolly Lafferty of Fort Resolution. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of departing board member Natasha McCagg.

I want to take this time to thank all of these individuals and the staff of the council for the good work they have done to advance women's equality issues in the Northwest Territories. Under the excellent leadership of these individuals, we have seen increased education and awareness in a number of areas including prevention of family violence, ongoing improvements to the resource library and research projects such as the social and environmental impacts of resource development on women. Of particular note is the Women's Voices in Leadership project. This project provided women from across the NWT with training and support as they consider careers in political leadership. This is an important initiative as it encourages women to enter into politics. I hope to see many more women running, and winning seats, in the next territorial election.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

HON. CHARLES DENT: Mr. Speaker, the Status of Women Council has been the impetus for many major developments such as Family Violence Awareness Week. They have actively supported the newly-established NWT Human Rights Commission, the work now underway for the implementation of the Protection Against Family Violence Act, and, most recently, the release of The Government Of the Northwest Territories Response to the NWT Action Plan on Family Violence, 2003-2008: A Framework for Action.

Much has been accomplished and still much needs to be done. I look forward to continuing my collaboration with the council to improve women's economic, social and political equality. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Birthday Greetings To Tuktoyaktuk Friends And Relatives

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in this House to speak of some people in my riding. First, I would like to send my condolences to the families of an elderly woman, Mrs. Mona Wolki of Paulatuk who passed away peacefully earlier this week. I understand the funeral will be held this afternoon. My prayers are with the families of the late Mona Wolki.

I would also like to send birthday greetings to Mrs. Persis Gruben of Tuktoyaktuk who turned 86 years young on October 20, 2004.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to send a very special birthday greeting to my son, Darren John, who turned 17 years young today. Happy birthday, son, and listen to mom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On National Youth Safety Conference

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the National Youth Safety Conference hosted by the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The conference will be held in Yellowknife on October 22nd, today, the 23rd and 24th. Over 110 young people from across the country between the ages of 16 and 24 will be arriving in Yellowknife to sharpen their safety skills in the workplace.

This will be the first National Youth Safety Conference hosted North of 60. The conference is called "What if You Couldn't." It's aimed at instructing young workers about the tragic, long-term effects of on-the-job injuries and how to increase workplace safety so that injuries do not occur.

Over the course of the three days, participants will gain skills and knowledge about workplace safety that they will be able to share with co-workers once they return to the worksites. I was pleased to hear that Yellowknife has the honour of hosting a national conference of this value.

Given that industry in the Northwest Territories is booming, I find it appropriate that a conference on workplace safety is happening in the Northwest Territories at this time. As we rush ahead with these heady days of development, it is important that we, as leaders, work with industry to ensure that the safety of workers remains a top priority.

I took a look at the schedule of events for this conference, Mr. Speaker, and I was pleased to see a number of local industry reps who will be participating in this conference: Diavik Diamond Mines will host one evening; Beaver Enterprises, together with the community of Fort Liard have collaborated for an afternoon session. Both of these sessions are called "Walking the Safety Talk."

In addition, presentations will be made by nationally-renowned leaders in safety, and young workers who have had the experience of being injured on the job. Employers will participate in the National Youth Safety Conference, as well, Mr. Speaker, gaining insight into the specific needs of young workers and their responsibility to meet those needs. I have no doubt that this conference will serve as an important learning tool for both young workers and their supervisors alike. I would like to welcome the participants to Yellowknife. I hope they have an informative and enjoyable time, and are to take their new safety skills back to their communities, when the conference is over, for the safety of everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Reflections On Consensus Government

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about our style of government. We take pride in our unique style of consensus government, and I agree that there are many advantages to the way in which we conduct the business of this government when one observes the gridlock and adversarial energy often expended in governments with a party system. Incidentally, I think many of our legislators in the House of Commons are gaining a whole new appreciation for consensus government since they convened after the last federal election.

Another major component of our work is that of the committees which we sit on. I believe I can say that our required participation through membership on the various standing committees in the government is where we spend the most of our duty time, apart from the work in our constituencies. We have been in session for about the past week and a half. Sometimes we attend in Yellowknife when session is not on for committees, but we also meet and have at least one committee meeting a day while we're here while session is on. Mr. Speaker, as the Members know, it's not uncommon to meet at 9:00, 10:30, noon, 1:30, and then at adjournment. I have a problem with this on a number of fronts, Mr. Speaker. I fundamentally believe that too much of our work is conducted in committee behind closed doors.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I object to this, because firstly it takes too much of our time. I represent a very busy riding, and when session is on I must apologize to my constituents in that on days when we meet for 12 hours, I often don't even get a chance to return their phone calls.

I'm not complaining about hard work, but I do resent redundant work. For example, we often go through things like supplementary appropriations or bills in painstaking, line-by-line detail in committee, just before it comes to the House to go into Committee of the Whole, where we could theoretically ask exactly the same questions. Unfortunately, the questions -- often very good questions -- don't get asked again in the House, and I don't have much appetite for asking the same question twice. If I'm satisfied with the answer, I'm not likely to ask it again for

the House performance. The public is then deprived of having access to these questions and the answers on the public record, and they will only be contained in the official transcript of the committee. Oh, yes, that's another issue. The deliberations in committee are also all recorded and painstakingly transcribed as is Hansard in the House. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, there are matters of discussion which need to be in camera, things which other councils of elected persons discuss in camera related to personnel and legal matters, or where there is information of a proprietary nature. There may be some argument to be made for discussing things like business plans of departments in camera, simply because Ministers and departments share this information with Members in confidence to secure their input; a privilege not normally enjoyed in other styles of government. But apart from that, I don't know of anything that could not be handled in the public.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am all for efficiency, and apart from making our government more transparent, doing more business in public would avoid the duplication of effort on the part of our busy Members, including me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Single-Rate Power Zone

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, mahsi cho. (English not provided)

Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak again on the one-rate power zone, which on Wednesday I gave notice of motion to. I apparently raised an old debate, and I welcome that. But, Mr. Speaker, this is a debate that the public never had. I am supportive of this motion and the decision rests solely in the...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Menicoche, I want to remind you that the topic you're speaking on is on the order paper for today and it can't be brought up in Members' statements.

---Ruled Out of Order

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much then, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: You're out of order.

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

Member's Statement On Employee Leave On Treaty Day

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a human resource government policy, another human resource government policy that's inconsistent due to the way the various government departments are carrying it out. Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the government employee leave on treaty day. Mr. Speaker, since the first treaty was signed in 1871 and the last one was signed in 1921, all aboriginals use this day to gather and celebrate a new way of thinking and living, not to mention receiving the token monetary gains from the federal government. This also serves as a reminder of a time when co-existence and cooperation to ensure our survival was a priority for all aboriginals and especially non-aboriginals.

Mr. Speaker, I have received numerous enquiries from government employees, some aboriginal and some non-aboriginal, in reference to treaty day leave. A policy of this government allows treaty Indians to half-a-day off to go and get treaty. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that some departments may grant treaty aboriginals the leave, regardless of whether they are treaty members from another community or not, and some departments require the treaty member to be receiving treaty in the community that they are working in in order to be granted the leave. Mr. Speaker, I feel that all treaty Indians are entitled to what we consider this leave as a treaty right. I will be asking the Minister later today on what he will be doing to ensure that for all treaty Indians, this government is respectful of this right and will develop a policy which will allow all treaty members time off without question or recourse should they take it upon themselves to leave the workplace to celebrate with their brothers and sisters, no matter where they are residing or working. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Polaris Institute Position On Missile Defence Initiative

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about a march that I participated in on October 2nd, I believe. It was organized by Alternatives North and it was with regard to Canada's involvement in the missile defence program with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, if I may read a couple quotes from the Polaris Institute's brochure, which is also on their website - which would be polarisinstitute.org -- I would like to start with that. An Ipsos-Reid poll says, "Did you know 69 percent of Canadians disapprove of Canada joining the U.S. missile shield?" Mr. Speaker, I wasn't polled, but I agree with that quote. I don't believe we should be in it either. On the back of the brochure, I further quote an open letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Paul Martin, "Canadian involvement in the U.S. missile defence would undermine decades of Canadian efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. It would represent our acquiescence and willingness to become an active participant in a permanent nuclear future. As such, it

would directly collide with the wishes of the Canadian people, who have expressed overwhelming support for nuclear disarmament.

"True security can only be achieved by establishing relationships of mutual respect and cooperation, free of exploitation, with nations and peoples throughout the world.

That is what we, as Canadians, have always believed and proudly stood for, and that is the kind of Canada that we want now and in the future. Mr. Martin, we implore you - and all Canadians - to keep Canada out of missile defence."

Mr. Speaker, not everyone will agree with the Polaris Institute's point of view and I can respect that, however, we have to also look at the fact that not everyone out there would agree with the missile defence program either, so have to respect that side of the coin, too. Mr. Speaker, I implore our Prime Minister to reconsider this issue. Don't lead us down that dark path.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, in that brochure on the web page that I referred to it had 10 simple questions and simple answers. I'm just going to read the 10 questions and not the answers. They're pretty straightforward, Mr. Speaker. But at this time, before I do that, I'll ask for unanimous consent if I may finish my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I would like to remind Members that the rules of the House are not to read from a document extensively that is not tabled before the House. You can make reference to a document, but not read from the document. 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. I will keep that in mind; I appreciate you pointing that out. Mr. Speaker, I won't read the questions then at this time, because, as you are right, the document has not been tabled in the House. However, I will table it later today in the House for all Members to have this in front of them. Again, I won't read the questions, but I will say that there are 10 simple questions that are straightforward and there are 10 straightforward answers. Everyone can access them on their own. Again, it can be found at polarisinstitute.org. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues.

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

Member's Statement On National Young Workers Safety Conference

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also take this opportunity to welcome the participants of the National Young Worker Safety Conference to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. There are many who are coming from south of 60 and from around the world, and for them I am sure this will be a great experience to see the North and meet the youth of the North.

Mr. Speaker, I could tell you a number of them are also coming from the North, and their participation at the

conference has been made possible not only by the big sponsors mentioned earlier, but by many small businesses who pay the fee to enable the students to attend this gathering. I would like to send our sincere thanks for that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also honour the memory of the youth who have died while at work. I know that by the unveiling of the memorial life quilt today we are remembering them and are being strongly reminded of the importance of work safety, especially for the youth.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on the topic of WCB, I would just like to also remind the Minister and Members of this House that when the WCB says when you go to work we have you covered, this is not always the case to the fullest extent possible. Mr. Speaker, I'm dealing with at least three cases in my riding of relatively young men who worked all their lives and have been injured at work but are not being covered for their rehab, training and living expenses. Mr. Speaker, I am also aware of the fact that there are many workers with chronic pain syndrome who continue to be excluded from coverage. This in spite of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the Supreme Court has recently rendered a decision that speaks to this issue and says that they must be covered.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Minister responsible for the WCB is new on the job, but I want to advise him that I expect to hear from him on this very soon. As well, in the last Assembly, the WCB was comprehensively reviewed and some legislative changes were made, but what remains to be done is the operational review of the WCB which has, I believe, not been concluded.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the Minister has been well briefed on this and that he is setting out direction in this regard, and that we're going to all hear the benefit of his deliberations and decisions. Mr. Speaker, I could tell you that the honourable Minister Krutko worked tirelessly for the little guy for his entire time as MLA on this side of the House, and I expect no less now that he is sitting on the other side. 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 Our Future And Our Youth

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about our future. Mr. Speaker, the elders have always told us and spoke very passionately about our future, and they continue to speak even more so in light of the changes of our lifestyles and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard, witnessed and supported our youth in many areas that contribute to the strengthening of our families, our communities and, more importantly, strengthening the youth spirit. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge several youth in communities in the North; specifically, a young lady in Fort McPherson who is working on behalf of her people to continue their way of life: honouring and protecting the caribou in the North Slope area. Mr. Speaker, let us acknowledge a young singer from Norman Wells who wanted to have a chance

to make the North of 60 Idol and made it happen to come down to Yellowknife to sing.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the first Sahtu Youth Strategy Conference was held in Fort Good Hope on August 16th to 20th of this year. We had 35 youth from the Sahtu region attend the three-day event. They gathered to discuss such issues as the Mackenzie gas opportunities, alcohol and drug issues for communities, family violence, and the impact of a Mackenzie gas pipeline. Mr. Speaker, these issues are also important to us as legislators, leaders, parents and grandparents, and even as elders. Mr. Speaker, there are lots of young people in the North who have taken the gift of life and are making the most of life, and that's their gift back to us in the Northwest Territories. For this I applaud them, Mr. Speaker.

In closing, I offer a statement from the Sahtu youth to the Sahtu leadership. They said we ask that you do everything in your power to take the alcohol and drugs out of our communities. I would like to thank the previous Minister of MACA and the present Minister of MACA for making this Sahtu youth conference a success, and I look forward to other successes in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On WCB Mandate To Care For Injured Workers

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to today echo and endorse the comments of my colleague from Range Lake regarding the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Indeed to compliment them on hosting the National Youth Conference that's about to get underway, but also to the point of the mandate that the WCB has to assist and look after those workers who, for whatever circumstance, have experienced injury and now have to go through a process of adjusting their life and coping with whatever the conditions that may have resulted from their accident or their workplace injuries.

Mr. Speaker, like my colleague, I, too, am dealing with a number of cases of constituents and others who for many, many months and years seem to have fallen through the cracks of the WCB system. The issue of chronic pain, which other compensation boards in Canada have dealt with and are managing, is one that is yet Nunavut and NWT's board has to take up.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most frustrating situations that I run across is the conflict that arises when medical opinions -- and these can be medical opinions from a number of specialists, batteries of tests, years of examination -- that when they are put before appeals boards and other mechanisms in the WCB just land on deaf ears. We have a major problem, I believe, Mr. Speaker, where our system does not recognize these things.

This gets to my third point and perhaps the most significant one that we need to deal with, which is within the WCB. Mr. Speaker, they have a policy of where there is doubt the benefit goes to the worker. Over and over

and over, Mr. Speaker, this is not being followed and this must be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to have an opportunity to recognize the families of the people we are going to be acknowledging at 12:00 noon with the unveiling of the quilt. Excuse me if I mispronounce your name, but I would like to recognize Jamie Cleese of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Welcome, Jamie.

---Applause

I have Ruth Oyukuluk from Arctic Bay in Nunavut.

---Applause

Also with us is Walter and Florence Daniska of Vancouver, British Columbia. Welcome.

---Applause

Also from the Workers' Compensation Board we have Marie Wilson, director of policy, planning and communications. Welcome, Marie.

---Applause

I saw Dave Grundy. If Dave is still there, he is also with the Workers' Compensation Board. Welcome.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize my constituent, Marie Wilson, and also I don't know if Dave Grundy is there either, but Dave, as well, is a constituent. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent who is present, Marie Wilson. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**Question 282-15(3): Support For Youth In NWT Communities**

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my statement today I talked about supporting the youth. My question will be directed to the Minister of MACA with regard to supporting our youth in the Northwest Territories. I ask the Minister of MACA what initiatives we can see in the Northwest Territories that would continue supporting our youth in terms of ability to make great contributions to our people in the communities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 282-15(3): Support For Youth In NWT Communities

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the youth portfolio, as the Members know, is fairly new. We have a number of programs that we operate currently. First of all, we have the Youth Corps Program, for which we budgeted \$750,000 and we targeted that funding towards youth at risk and also some of the educational programs. We also have some funding towards youth contributions.

In the last while, we've been quite focused on where we intend to go in the future with this whole portfolio. We are doing a review of what is in the other departments. We're cataloguing all the programs that youth can access and we're also doing a review of the funding that we've been distributing in the last while with the intention that we will have a portfolio that can respond quicker to the youth in the NWT.

We are quite aware that the youth themselves have been taking advantage of our funding and have been focusing on organizing themselves in terms of conferences. We've worked with the youth to look at an NWT youth conference over the last couple of years and more so in the last while on the youth councils that are starting to develop in the different ridings. So our intention is to take a look at where the money is being earmarked and where the money is being spent and also what the other departments have.

We also have a program through MACA that is being utilized for youth. A lot of the youth facilities in terms of youth centres that are starting to come forward are being funded through our Community Initiatives Program. So, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of activity in the area of youth. There could be more. We have really kind of become more focused and developed our long-term goals for this whole portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 282-15(3): Support For Youth In NWT Communities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister. You gave a really good scenario of all the programs and things that we could do to support our youth. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister continue to maintain

and I believe that the needs should have more dollars going into the program? So would the Minister see or work toward the youth contributions that the youth are getting that they would see an increase or at least see something that could be a core program for our youth in our region? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 282-15(3): Support For Youth In NWT Communities

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in my responses, we are reviewing our programs in terms of how effective they are and our dollars are being spent and utilized accordingly. We are also coordinating, as a department, an interdepartmental youth program, which meets with other departments twice annually to share information to see what we are doing and what other departments are doing. As part of that, we'll be looking at what the requirements are for youth, as I stated earlier. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 282-15(3): Support For Youth In NWT Communities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education in his Minister's statement...I applaud him and the Minister of MACA for putting the initiative out there in the communities to help our youth. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, youth are killing themselves in the small communities. The honourable Members Mrs. Groenewegen and Mr. Dent were talking about that earlier and I'm asking the Minister what can we do to set some strong policies? I appreciate the Minister revisiting the portfolio and seeing what can we do for youth in the communities that sets some strong guidelines, legislation, policy. That could really help our youth in the communities. It is getting really scary in the communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I heard a question and maybe the Minister can answer.

Further Return To Question 282-15(3): Support For Youth In NWT Communities

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That question of what can we do for our youth is a very difficult one. It's been raised here in the House on a number of occasions during this session and it's something that we are very concerned about. First of all, we have to get our own programs and our own infrastructure requirements and programs for infrastructure in order. We are attempting to do that by cataloguing what other departments are doing. We are looking at our programs. We are reviewing them to see if they are adequate. We are meeting with other departments in terms of social program Ministers and we are trying to coordinate all our programs and infrastructure in a way that one Minister would be responsible and be able to be more responsive and be able to refer communities and youth groups to proper funding sources or organizations that are out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 282-15(3): Support For Youth In NWT Communities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us when that report will be tabled in the House?

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

Further Return To Question 282-15(3): Support For Youth In NWT Communities

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of information to review. We've had conferences all over in the Territories in this past year. We've had conferences in the Sahtu, we've had conferences in the Deh Cho and the South Slave regions. We have a report that's coming forward to us with regard to the review of our Youth Corps funding and that is being put together as we speak. I'm expecting those recommendations for my consideration in the next little while and I'd be glad to share that information with the Member, Mr. Speaker, as soon as I receive it.

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

Question 283-15(3): Progress On GNWT Mandate To Pursue Devolution

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in this Assembly we had quite a day debating the merits of the process of devolution and resource revenue sharing. I think it was one of our better days so far as the 15th Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and I would really like to congratulate my colleagues and our staff for assisting with this process. My question today is a follow-up to that debate. It's to the Premier on the issue of devolution. Mr. Speaker, last week in response to a question, the Premier committed to make available the GNWT's devolution mandate and my question to the Premier is when might we be able to expect it to be made available? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 283-15(3): Progress On GNWT Mandate To Pursue Devolution

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday was an excellent debate and I would say in my view it certainly was one of our better days if not our best day as legislators here. With regard to the mandate on devolution, I had said that I would make it available to Members and I certainly will do that. Mr. Speaker, because we are in negotiations, I really don't think it would be wise to make public our mandate unless everybody wanted to put their mandates on the table because it is a negotiated process. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm ready to make it available to Members privately. I'm ready to make it available to the committee and if the committee wants to meet on it, then I certainly take to heart one other Member's statement of not wanting to do too much business in committee, but there are some things that probably are better dealt with in committee so we don't bias our process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 283-15(3): Progress On GNWT Mandate To Pursue Devolution

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate that and certainly, in general, I support the protection of a mandate when there is a negotiation going on. That will certainly be something that committee can consider is the opportunity or the offer made by the Premier to have a look at this mandate, but I would like to explore it a little bit more. I'm wondering if the Premier could talk a bit about what are the principles that have gone into the mandate. What are the criteria by which the mandate has been set? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 283-15(3): Progress On GNWT Mandate To Pursue Devolution

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, some of the main principles that our government has been very public on and certainly our principles that underlie what we do in devolution include that we will not somehow abrogate or somehow compromise any aboriginal rights of any groups or their treaty rights. As we negotiate devolution, we will not prejudice any land claims or self-government agreements. Mr. Speaker, as well we have said that aboriginal governments should have a role and responsibilities when devolution is complete. We are not just looking at devolution from federal government to us, but rather we want to include aboriginal governments. So that would be another principle. We also believe that all governments, including the GNWT and aboriginal governments, should have reasonable net fiscal benefits as a result of devolution. Mr. Speaker, those are some of the main principles that our discussions on devolution are based upon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 283-15(3): Progress On GNWT Mandate To Pursue Devolution

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, one of the things we talked about yesterday was the role of some of the timelines and the expectations. In fact the agreement that was signed earlier this year said that all three levels of government, federal, territorial and aboriginal, agreed to shoot for April 2006. Now is that agreement still in place, or is that target still in place, Mr. Speaker? Thank you very much.

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

Further Return To Question 283-15(3): Progress On GNWT Mandate To Pursue Devolution

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, that continues to be in place. It's in the framework agreement that all three parties signed last winter and we signed in January; I think the federal government signed off in March. That's the only time frame we have right now, and at some point soon we will have to sit down with the aboriginal governments and with the federal government and review that and see if this is still a realistic target for us to be aiming at. Mr. Speaker, I want to make significant progress or complete devolution during the life of our

government and I'm still aiming at trying to do it by 2006 if that is possible, if we have the willingness on all sides. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 283-15(3): Progress On GNWT Mandate To Pursue Devolution

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the resources of the Northwest Territories and the value of those resources are leaving our territory at unprecedented and increasing rates as we continue to negotiate. Does the negotiating framework have any trigger mechanisms or ways in which we can force a conclusion in the event that our regular or agreed-to or hoped-for timelines are not met?

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

Further Return To Question 283-15(3): Progress On GNWT Mandate To Pursue Devolution

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, no, there are no trigger mechanisms that can force anyone to sign on a devolution deal that they are not willing to sign on. This has to be a good deal for everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 284-15(3): Government Leave Entitlement On Treaty Day

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question would be directed to the Minister of FMBS, the Honourable Floyd Roland, regarding the department which oversees all the human resource policies of this government. Mr. Speaker, I know the treaty issues are not something new, but to date government policy, that I feel can be quite concise and clear, has not been developed to date with regard to entitlement leave on treaty day. I feel all treaty Indians, treaty members, regardless of their place of employment are entitled to the half-day leave, which some receive today and some don't. I guess my question to the Minister is when is the Minister going to circle the government wagons and get a policy in place that entitles all treaty Indians to leave to go out and receive treaty no matter where they live? Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, the Honourable Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 284-15(3): Government Leave Entitlement On Treaty Day

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the civic leave section of the human resource manual states that civic leave is for those that are entitled to the treaty or have treaty status in the Northwest Territories and it is quite clear. It hasn't been an issue raised to me in the past, but it does state that Dene employees with treaty status would request one half-day leave per year to attend treaty celebrations in their

community. That can be granted. So it is clear at this point, but I guess what I am hearing is that there is a concern that it should be eligible to status Dene whether they move from one community to another to take part in that day and that's something we can look at. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 284-15(3): Government Leave Entitlement On Treaty Day

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am well aware of the civic leave entitlement in the UNW agreement and the government policy, and the Minister did exactly hit the point that I am trying to put across to you, that many treaty Indians that have relocated for employment purposes and no longer go out and receive treaty in their respective communities, even though they are employed in and, in some instances, employees that are entitled to treaty in another community, are not granted the leave by their employers because they don't receive treaty in that community. So I guess my question is maybe the Minister should direct the department to omit the section in article 17 under civic leave, which states that employees are entitled to receive a half-day off to receive treaty in their community. I think that should be omitted out of the policy and maybe the Minister could direct his staff to carry out that initiative. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 284-15(3): Government Leave Entitlement On Treaty Day

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think, as the Government of the Northwest Territories, we are one of the leading jurisdictions when it comes to recognizing aboriginal rights throughout Canada. For example, we have provided National Aboriginal Day as an actual day that is recognized as a paid day off for employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories and have put it in as recognized throughout the North. So I think we have examples of being proactive here. I would gladly discuss with the Member the specifics of what he is looking at. The whole civic leave area is one of some concern as the more time we add to it, it means more cost to the government as we have to fill those spots of people leaving the place of work where we still require the work to get done. I would gladly sit down with the Member and try to work out some specifics here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Third supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be glad to sit down with the Minister just to make some changes on that policy, but I know this government is really supportive and develops a lot of good initiatives that deal with the aboriginal and treaty rights. The point, I guess, I am trying to make is that, on a government-wide basis, the human resource policy is interpreted differently from department to department. There is no consistency. It depends on which department you are working with. For instance, in Aboriginal Affairs, I am sure all the treaties in that department get a half-day off, including non-treaties, from what I understand. Then you go across to the other side of the government spectrum to the Department of Finance...

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question, Mr. Villeneuve? Could you please get to question?

Supplementary To Question 284-15(3): Government Leave Entitlement On Treaty Day

MR. VILLENEUVE: When is this government or the Minister going to ensure that the government makes all the government departments more consistent in the delivery of the whole leave policy on treaty day? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 284-15(3): Government Leave Entitlement On Treaty Day

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have started our work as a government to bring all departments and boards into line when we deal with our human resource issues. We have begun that work to ensure that. The rules that we have in place are interpreted the same way across the board. We have heard the concerns before and are starting to do some work in that area and bring it into line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. A very short supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 284-15(3): Government Leave Entitlement On Treaty Day

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that response because I look forward to seeing some changes in the near future. I am willing to sit down with the Minister and help develop some new policies with respect to more consistent delivery of the human resource policies in this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I didn't hear a question there. We will go to the next one. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 285-15(3): Spill At Jackfish Power Plant

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Premier in his responsibility as the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. It is with regard to the oil spill at the Jackfish plant.

Mr. Speaker, in the newspaper on October 8th, the story was covered. The Minister indicated that, because of less usage of the plant with the Bluefish plant being more operational, there has been less need for 24-hour supervision or there has been some cut. It is a cost-cutting measure. The Premier questioned whether or not having more people there would have prevented it. I think the point is that not that more people would prevent that, but when it does happen, that the more people being there could take care of the situation. So I would like to know from the Minister whether or not he has had any discussions with the Power Corporation about having adequate staff there to monitor it so that when something does happen there is a quick response to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 285-15(3): Spill At Jackfish Power Plant

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I have had discussions with the Power Corporation about security and having someone to make sure that these kinds of incidents don't happen if they can at all be prevented. Mr. Speaker, we have to recognize as well, though, that the generators out at Jackfish do not operate many hours any more because of the mine shutdown and because we have bought the Bluefish hydro project. We are, in the city here, now largely a hydro power serviced community. The only times that the Jackfish plant generators are running is for routine maintenance; the need for them to be started up every now and again. They will be used when the weather turns colder and a few days when it is minus 40 and so on. We don't need operators to watch generators that are not operating, that are just shut down. What we need, though, is more security. I have talked to the Power Corporation about that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 285-15(3): Spill At Jackfish Power Plant

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, even if the plant is not in full use, it is situated practically in the middle of the city, next to a lake that people frequent for recreational uses and for other reasons. It is important that that facility be monitored and the safety is taken care of so that environmental disasters don't happen that affect the people. Mr. Speaker, I understand that extra security would monitor it, but you still need operators on standby in case something happens. I don't know if the security is enough. Mr. Speaker, there are varying numbers as to how much oil was spilled. It was initially reported by the company that 3,000 litres were spilled. There is an employee who is suggesting that up to 50,000 litres were spilled. The latest report a couple of days ago suggests that it was 13,000 litres, which is still 10,000 more than what the company was suggesting. I would like to know what investigation has gone on to determine exactly what happened, how much was spilled, and how to prevent this from happening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 285-15(3): Spill At Jackfish Power Plant

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will answer the last question. Mr. Speaker, the Power Corporation has a way of calculating the amount of fuel that is used, that is by measuring how much the fuel has gone down in a tank. They know that, in running the engines, some of the fuel is consumed by the generators when they are started up and when they run. When they first did the calculation, they made an error in the amount of hours that the generators were running and estimated something over 3,000 litres. They have since done a closer calculation and are now pretty comfortable that 13,000 litres is the amount that was spilled. I don't know how the employee who mentioned 50,000 litres calculated that or where that came from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Short supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 285-15(3): Spill At Jackfish Power Plant

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that the federal government is somehow involved in investigating this. Could I ask the Minister to tell us whether or not the GNWT is responsible for monitoring and enforcing and cleaning this, or is it the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 285-15(3): Spill At Jackfish Power Plant

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the lead department on these kinds of spills is the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, because of the size of the spill, if Environment Canada chose to become involved, they have the right to become involved as well because of the size of the spill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 285-15(3): Spill At Jackfish Power Plant

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity for final supplementary. Mr. Speaker, the report suggests that the workforce at the plant, for whatever reasons and maybe for valid reasons, has been reduced from 10 to four, and there are no longer operators beyond 5:00 p.m. where it used to be monitored 24 hours a day. There seems to be a lot of morale problems. There always is when there are changes going on in a facility like that. There are people who have been working there for many decades. I would like to know if the Minister would speak to the corporation to make sure that all the workers there know what is going on, what the future plan of the plant is, what they should be expecting and that their concerns and grievances are dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 285-15(3): Spill At Jackfish Power Plant

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, there are always morale problems whenever any operation reduces staff and so on. At one time, we did need a lot of operators when the two mines were operating, the city was growing, and we were using the diesel power from the Jackfish plant a lot. But now, with the two mines closed, with the Bluefish onside, we don't need the number of operators, so we have cut back, and that has caused morale problems. I have spoken to a couple of the workers myself. I will pass this information on to the Power Corporation, as well. Mr. Speaker, the reality is that we just don't need as many as we did before because we are not using that plant as much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 286-15(3): Labour Concerns At The North Slave Correctional Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Justice who, earlier in the sitting of the House, stood up and mentioned the fact that employees at North Slave Correctional Centre could speak out without a fear of retribution from management at that centre. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if, indeed, employees are being targeted at the North Slave Correctional Centre for conduct that they do in terms of questioning management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 286-15(3): Labour Concerns At The North Slave Correctional Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, employees are certainly not targeted for speaking to the investigators from corporate human resources about human resource practices within Justice. In fact, nobody in the Department of Justice has access to those interviews, so there is nobody out there who has any idea of what may have been said. So, no, there would be no targeting of employees for that.

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

Supplementary To Question 286-15(3): Labour Concerns At The North Slave Correctional Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been getting a number of phone calls and e-mails. One e-mail was even titled "The Department of Injustice," Mr. Speaker. There is a disturbing situation that occurred recently with an employee being terminated at the North Slave Correctional Centre; an employee, Mr. Speaker, that indeed was speaking out against management practices and the hiring process at North Slave Correctional Centre. I find it to be quite a coincidence. A day after he was assaulted by an inmate, he was relieved of his duties as a correctional guard at that centre. It is a very big coincidence, Mr. Speaker, that this employee was one of the more vocal employees there. I was just wondering if the Minister is aware of this situation and when he may be able to get me some answers as to what happened to this individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 286-15(3): Labour Concerns At The North Slave Correctional Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would say that it is not appropriate in this venue to discuss an issue like this. I would invite the Member, if he is interested in further information, to approach either myself or Mr. Roland, who is responsible for the public service, to discuss issues such as this. But I will not respond in this House.

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

Supplementary To Question 286-15(3): Labour Concerns At The North Slave Correctional Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reason I bring it up here today is because this might be the only venue where I might get some answers as to what happened at the North Slave Correctional Centre. What is happening out at the North Slave Correctional Centre? I haven't really been happy with any of the responses I received from what is happening there. It seems to be quite secretive. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister doesn't want to answer the question about what happened to the employee who was assaulted one day and fired the next, I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, when he might be able to address this with me. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 286-15(3): Labour Concerns At The North Slave Correctional Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for the public service has advised me that the review of human resource practices is underway, and that, in the not-too-distant future, a report will be available that will be provided to Members on their findings. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 286-15(3): Labour Concerns At The North Slave Correctional Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am just wondering if the Minister is aware of some concern among employees at the North Slave Correctional Centre, that management does indeed have a list of targeted employees, Mr. Speaker, that they have singled out and that they are going after, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister aware of this list being in existence? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 286-15(3): Labour Concerns At The North Slave Correctional Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe such a list exists. Thank you.

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

Question 287-15(3): Policies Respecting Civic Leave

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to pick up where the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe left off with regards to civic leave. My questions are for the Minister responsible for FMBS. I am sure the Minister is aware that smaller communities are generally at least 50 to 70 percent staff of government. In order to run the many boards and councils that are needed for the communities, a lot of these people offer their volunteer time, Mr. Speaker. Constituents in the Nahendeh riding are particularly concerned about regional manager's interpretation of the rules with regard to civic leave. Does the Minister have a system in place, Mr. Speaker, where the interpretation is clear across all departments? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, the Honourable Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 287-15(3): Policies Respecting Civic Leave

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, it has been recognized that with our fragmented system of human resource management throughout the Government of the Northwest Territories, many issues of this nature do arise. That is why we have taken the effort to pull that together so that we will have a better process in place, and the same interpretations of our rules would be enforced, worked on and delivered. We do recognize that and are working to make that better so that all employees would have the same understanding of what is available to them.

I haven't been made aware of the specific issues of different areas, but in our manual it is fairly clear as to who is able to take leave and at what time. There is some discretion when it comes to maintaining whatever environment it is where we have staff working. We can't have everybody going off to different areas at the same time and leaving us unable to do the work that is required on a daily basis. There is some discretion in existing policies, but, yes, we are working to ensure that everybody will have the same understanding. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 287-15(3): Policies Respecting Civic Leave

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, specifically, there are instances in the community where I am from, in Fort Simpson, where community band councils are involved in strategy sessions. It takes a lot of time during luncheon meetings. That is where some of the employees have been having a problem, Mr. Speaker. The rules that exist really don't address luncheon meetings. I was wondering if the Minister has any comments in that regard. Often employees have to meet beyond lunch hour, beyond 2:00. Does the Minister know if it is in the existing guidelines to extend employees at least perhaps an hour or two through lunch hours and classified as civic leave? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 287-15(3): Policies Respecting Civic Leave

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an employee is eligible for up to 15 days annually. That amount cannot be booked or gone over. It is fairly clear there that there are 15 days. That can be broken down into whatever number, a half-day at a time, a few hours at a time, and put into practice that way. There isn't a process in place to say that they met during lunch hour and need to take a different time for that process. That isn't built in. If their meetings go over, and it is part of the allowable reasons for civic leave, then, again, it would be just a matter of applying for the hour that they were sitting and doing work, as eligible under the civic leave policy. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 287-15(3): Policies Respecting Civic Leave

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess if anything, it's just to make the Minister aware and if he can convey that to his department, that it occurs, it's unplanned where the meetings go beyond the lunch hour. But I'm still quite concerned about the administration of civic leave, with regard to different departments administering it differently. There are still cases where, say on this particular band council there are members from four different departments and only two of them will get approved for specific strategy sessions. Does the Minister have any current plans to have a level playing field when it comes to administering civic leave? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 287-15(3): Policies Respecting Civic Leave

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our civic leave is considered one of the most generous across the land as to how we make time available for employees to go and do work with other agencies, and it's because we understand in small communities there is a need for this from time to time. But each case is going to have to be looked at individually, if members from a different band or department may have used up their time or if there are potential conflict issues with the issues that are going to be addressed in their work within the department they have. So there are a number of factors that come into play, and each one would still have to be dealt with on an individual basis, but the policy itself will be understood across the board. That's our goal as we go forward with our work around human resource management. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 287-15(3): Policies Respecting Civic Leave

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't clear in the Minister's answer whether they are going to undertake to have a good, solid review of the policy. I am particularly concerned with the many, many boards that the community has. There are a couple of them that are just as important, but they are not on this approved list, Mr. Speaker. So I would like to ask the Minister responsible when will he be looking at reviewing the policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 287-15(3): Policies Respecting Civic Leave

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of civic leave has come up with respect the overall policy, and I have done a review and discussed with my Cabinet colleagues the potential issues and avenues that we had. It was felt that we leave it at the existing stage. Now it becomes an issue more of making sure that the implementation is the same across

the board. So we have looked at it and feel that we are fairly generous. We have to be careful here, because it can go either way with the review, either tightening it up and making it very rigid or making it too loose and have a hard time accounting for all the time that is being taken. So I have looked at it and it is more, at this point, ensuring that the policy is interpreted the same across the board. Thank you.

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

Question 288-15(3): Involvement In Canada/USA Missile Defence Program

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to bring attention to comments I made during my Member's statement which was about Canada's involvement in the missile defence program with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Premier of this Assembly, and as I passionately referred to him yesterday as our shepherd of this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, would the Premier be able to confirm or say otherwise if the GNWT has a policy or a position in regard to Canada's involvement in the missile defence program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 288-15(3): Involvement In Canada/USA Missile Defence Program

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, no, we don't have a policy on the federal government's programs. Those would be issues outside of our government and not things we would have policies on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 288-15(3): Involvement In Canada/USA Missile Defence Program

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been well said many times that the population of the Northwest Territories does not anchor Canada; however, it is a significant population, I would like to say. I think that the fact that the missiles, if we ever reach that stage, would all be going over our heads and who knows where the fallout may happen one day, I think it's critical that we do take a position. Why do we not have a position? Why do we not send an open letter from this government to our Prime Minister on our position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Two questions there; you can answer one, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 288-15(3): Involvement In Canada/USA Missile Defence Program

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think the main methods to the Prime Minister and to the federal government that we have taken forward is that we want to be consulted on programs that the federal government has that impact on our territory or on our population. So that message has been consistent.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not, at this point -- without consultation, without knowing more about the missile defence systems and so on -- prepared to take a position and relay that to the Prime Minister. I will, though, and I have been saying to him that we want to be at the table to discuss the northern strategy which he has referred to, which in my mind includes missile defence among many other policies and programs that affect us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 288-15(3): Involvement In Canada/USA Missile Defence Program

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Premier, for what you were saying there. Mr. Speaker, if the Premier could further elaborate just for my clarity that he will endeavour to take forward a position to get out there and research what is happening and bring forward a comprehensive briefing note to all Members about the consultation process, about us getting involved on this and possibly, maybe even someday passing a motion in this House for either our support or non-support in this regard. Would the Premier make that commitment to this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 288-15(3): Involvement In Canada/USA Missile Defence Program

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as this particular issue on missile defence becomes clearer in terms of what is being proposed and how it may impact us, then certainly we would be ready and willing to brief this House. In the meantime, I want to focus on ensuring that we are at the table when the federal government moves forward on the proposed northern strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 288-15(3): Involvement In Canada/USA Missile Defence Program

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've sometimes been known as one to bite the hand that feeds me. In this regard I think it's important that our Premier takes a strong position, at least echoes our concerns with our federal government and says will they provide us a clear position of Canada's position on that regard. Will he commit to bringing that position paper to the Assembly for discussion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 288-15(3): Involvement In Canada/USA Missile Defence Program

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I've already made that request to the Prime Minister in earlier discussions. I am meeting with him on Sunday, and that will be reinforced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 289-15(3): Income Support Winter Clothing Allowance

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question now is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and it relates to one of the programs that we offer under the Income Support side, Mr. Speaker. This is an allowance, I believe of \$250 that is made on an annual basis to Income Support clients. It helps them get equipped for the rigours of our climate here. It has come to my attention that this program can only be accessed if a client has been on our books for one year.

Mr. Speaker, it's winter out there and I am wondering what kind of provision can be made for people who are otherwise eligible for all of our Income Support services, but can't get access to that clothing money, and there might be some kids out there who could really use it right now. That is my question to the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 289-15(3): Income Support Winter Clothing Allowance

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I don't have the background on why the decision was made to require...It's not a full year on the program, as I understand it. A recipient must have been receiving income support for six of the previous 12 months in order to qualify for the benefit. I suspect that it is because the amount they have divided up on a monthly basis would not be enough to purchase anything in the way of clothing. So in order to make it a reasonable amount, rather than giving out \$20 a month or \$40 a month, it's seen as an offering in the program that allows a reasonable amount of money, like \$250 for those who have been on the program for a while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 289-15(3): Income Support Winter Clothing Allowance

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are all very good reasons and programs like this need some kind of criteria. It all makes sense from an administrative point of view, but we do have a seasonal situation to deal with. People come and may not be coordinating with our administrative purposes. Can the Minister go back and have a look at that regulation, see if it can be returned to allow for some consideration for the timing when this is needed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 289-15(3): Income Support Winter Clothing Allowance

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can certainly have a look at the regulation. I think we have to remember that most people who come into income support are cycling through. Therefore, they have what they bring into the system already. This amount is probably set up to recognize that those people who have been on income support for a long period of time,

have not had the resources to purchase the clothing on their own. Whereas somebody who has just come into the system in the last month will have been well off enough to have purchased clothing previously. Can I look at it? Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 290-15(3): NWT Youth Abroad Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment made an announcement with regard to the Youth Abroad Program. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister for some clarification. When he says "young people," can he give me the definition of young people? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 290-15(3): NWT Youth Abroad Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This program targets young people who would be or should be in high school.

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

Supplementary To Question 290-15(3): NWT Youth Abroad Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's a lot of people who used to be in high school. Can I ask for the age of the young people? I have a high percentage of young people in my region. For example, close to 30 percent of the youth are in Tulita, same as Fort Good Hope. I would like to get more clarification in terms of the ages of the youth. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 290-15(3): NWT Youth Abroad Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure there is a specific age group that's stipulated. For instance, in the education system, if you are 20 and you have been out for a year, you are expected to go back through the college. I think the same sort of requirements would be expected in this program. So it's similar to those found for education. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 290-15(3): NWT Youth Abroad Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the government on this that they are going out and seeking students and leaders of tomorrow. Can the Minister let the House know, because of this program, will it hurt other programs that are funded towards the youth for the next two years?

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

Further Return To Question 290-15(3): NWT Youth Abroad Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that this isn't a government program. It's basically volunteers who are running the program. This government is providing contribution assistance for two years to assist it to get off the ground. It's very similar to what happened with the initial program that was set up in Nunavut. That's one of the reasons I can't answer the age questions because I don't have all of the criteria. We welcome all the Members here for the 2:00 p.m. launch this afternoon of the program in the Great Hall. At that time, I am sure we will be able to provide a lot more detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 290-15(3): NWT Youth Abroad Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I am just getting some clarification for myself. Are the career and technology study courses offered in small communities in regions like mine? Will they have an opportunity to apply for a program such as this? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 290-15(3): NWT Youth Abroad Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, CTS courses are offered in schools across the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 48-15(3): Policies On Escorts For Medical Travel

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. In my Member's statement of October 19, 2004, there were a number of concerns raised with regard to patients requiring escorts:

1. Can the Minister provide me with information on the number of patients from Nunakput who were denied escorts and why?
2. Can the Minister provide me with information on who makes the final decisions for patients requiring escorts?
3. Can the Minister provide me with information on the policy for travel of patients who require escorts?
4. Can the Minister provide me with information on how the department keeps the families informed when their loved ones are travelling for medical reasons?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Before I go to the next item, I would like to recognize William Greenland in the gallery.

---Applause

Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 81-15(3): GNWT 2003 Public Service Annual Report

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Government of the Northwest Territories 2003 Public Service Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Tabled Document 82-15(3): Polaris Institute Pamphlet: Canada And Missile Defence

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the document Canada and Missile Defence: 10 Straight Questions and 10 Honest Answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 103.(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides for the approval of sole adjudicators by motion of the House;

AND WHEREAS it's desirable to have persons approved for appointment as sole adjudicators under 103.(2) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management has considered a number of qualified persons for approval as sole adjudicators;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the following persons be approved by the Legislative Assembly as sole adjudicators:

- a) Mr. Robert Clark;
- b) Mr. Robert Halifax; and,
- c) Mr. David Jones, QC.

Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 48(1) of the Human Rights Act provides for the establishment of an adjudication panel composed of at least three persons appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management has considered a number of qualified individuals for appointment as adjudication panel members, including one member to be appointed as the chairperson;

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 16, motions. Before I go to the next item, I would like to recognize in the gallery Hon. Michael Miltenberger's baby brother, Mark Miltenberger.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 18: SECOND 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

Weledeh, that Bill 17, Modernization of Benefits and Obligations Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends several acts to ensure that references to "spouse" appropriately capture persons who live in spousal relationships outside marriage, so that the rights or obligations provided for or imposed under those acts are equitably applied to persons in different forms of spousal relationships.

This particular bill:

- amends the Conflict of Interest Act to ensure that the term "spouse" includes couples who live together in a conjugal relationship of any duration;
- amends the Dependants Relief Act to substitute a definition "spouse" that adopts the meaning assigned to the term by section 1 of the Family Law Act;
- amends a provision of the Education Act relating to the conflict of interest requirements for members of education bodies to ensure that the term "spouse" includes couples who live together in a conjugal relationship of any duration;
- amends a provision of the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act relating to a conflict of interest disqualification from membership on a board of management, to ensure that the term "spouse" includes couples who live together in a conjugal relationship of any duration;
- repeals a provision of the Human Tissue Act which defines "cohabit" and "spouse," thus allowing the new Interpretation Act definition of "spouse" to apply;
- amends the Interpretation Act to add a definition "spouse" which will apply generally to Northwest Territories enactments that refer to that term, unless a contrary intention is expressed in a particular enactment;
- amends the Intestate Succession Act to repeal the definitions "spouse" and "cohabit" and to substitute a definition "spouse" that adopts the meaning assigned to the term by section 1 of the Family Law Act. The Intestate Succession Act is also amended to add a statement that preserves application of the previous law to persons who die intestate before this bill comes into force.
- amends the Marriage Act to clarify that a requirement to provide proof of death of a previous spouse upon marriage only applies where the person and the deceased spouse had been married. This amendment does not change the eligibility of persons to marry under the Marriage Act.
- amends a provision of the Wills Act relating to the attestation of wills to provide that the definition "spouse" added to the Interpretation Act by this bill does not apply to an attestation that was made before this bill comes into force;
- amends the Workers' Compensation Act to provide that the definition "spouse" added to the Interpretation Act by this bill does not apply to the Workers' Compensation Act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 17 has had second reading and the bill is referred to a standing committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Bill 18: An Act To Amend The Territorial Court Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals the requirement that territorial court judges and deputy territorial judges cease to hold office at age 65, subject to reappointment. The ultimate requirement that such judges cease to hold office at age 75 is retained.

This bill also repeals provisions that relate to fixed term appointments for deputy territorial judges. Transitional provisions specify that deputy territorial judges whose terms have not expired before this act comes into force are deemed to hold office indefinitely, subject to the requirement that they cease to hold office at age 75. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 18 has had second reading and accordingly is referred to a standing 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: Thank you, Madam Chair. The committee wishes to consider Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Do you want to proceed with that now? We will take a 15-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I am going to call Committee of the Whole back to order. We are dealing with Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005. It is Bill 13 in your binders. We left off yesterday on page 10, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$1.49 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I guess I was being optimistic and I wasn't thinking about questions. I have noted that Ms. Lee wants to ask questions. Does the committee agree that the Minister will bring witnesses into the Chamber?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he will escort the witnesses in for Mr. Roland, please.

We welcome Mr. Voytilla back as a witness for Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think it would be pessimistic to not expect questions. Madam Chair, I have a question for the Minister on the cost overrun on the heating fuel and power and maintenance cost of the new Inuvik hospital. I know there were lots of questions raised on this yesterday and I only have one final question. It has to do with whether or not any specific investigations were done as to whether there was a major defect in this area, or it's just a case of not crunching the numbers. Often houses get built and you start heating for a year and things come up and are noticed that were not anticipated. Something might be loose that could cause leakage or an overuse of fuel that was not anticipated, and it's an actual physical defect rather than not estimating properly. I would like to know if that sort of investigation was done. Has there been any analysis done on how this level of cost at the Inuvik hospital compares with other facilities, perhaps a comparison should be done with the Stanton hospital by comparing comparable numbers to see if it's over the limit for the size. For a 10,000 square foot space, is it reasonable that it costs as much as it does? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess I would like to thank the member for raising questions around this issue again so that I could provide committee with information as to the actual process and to clear the air that, in fact, estimates were done but they were not used. As a result of the questions that came out from members of concerns raised and some very strong suggestions that something should be done, we have gone back and requested more information and I would be willing to provide committee members with the responses

that we received from the Department of Health and Social Services. I would like to read some of it in for the record, as well, to the process. We do have a package here to hand out to members.

I am going to do this for the record because there is a bit of misinformation out there. Initially the information and questions that arose here were around the fact that there were bad numbers out there and poor estimations done. On that, I went back and made the request through FMB and Health to come up with the full history on this. That is what we are providing to members. The way the work was done, there were estimations made during the preconstruction phase, and they were completed in 1999 for the utility and maintenance costs for the new facility. The estimates at that time were \$1,012,083, which were over \$300,000 more than the old facility was using on an annual basis.

When the project was in completion and they began moving staff, officials and patients over, another estimate was done based upon the original consumption estimates but revised unit costs. The estimate, at that time, came in at \$1,487,500, which was \$700,000 more than the costs of the old facility. The actual costs for 2003-04 year came in at \$1,637,781, which is just \$150,000 over the revised estimate. But because of the changing estimates that were being used and our stringent FMB requirement for substantiation for new money, it was felt at the time that it was best that the health board operate within the existing budget -- that was the old budget for the old hospital -- and come forward once they had actual costs for O and M. Once that was done, it went into the process as being built into the business plans as we go forward, and the department came back with a request for monies that they did not have, based on the discussions that happened through Health and FMB. It was the understanding that when they did have actual costs, then they could come back and better substantiate the need for dollars. So taking into consideration that the old hospital was 4,600 square metres and the new hospital is 8,800 square metres, and new code requirements for ventilation -- air turnover, as they call it -- and the new air cooling system that was in the new facility versus none being in the old facility, and the different equipment used and more space that is there, it has now come forward that, in fact, they were short substantially versus what they were told to operate on from the old facility. So that is how the numbers have come about. We provided that. There is also an attachment of the figures that were projected on electricity, heating fuel and the total costs and the unit costs, as well. We have provided that to members. Hopefully that will clarify the concerns and better show how this number was arrived at as we are here today. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Well, that is a lot of information. I appreciate that we went through this yesterday, but there were some remaining questions. We are still not clear exactly as to how it is the case that this budget for fuel and power has been underestimated by almost \$1 million each year. For example, it says here that the Minister said that the department was aware that the new facility would cost more and that something like ventilation, it seems like the turnover had to be 13 times or whatever. This is not new science. I am sure there is an industry standard that they had to work with that would tell them what level of

ventilation would be required and how much power that would take to run it. With all this knowledge about it, why were they not able to factor in the extra costs? It is a bigger hospital, a newer system, and more stringent requirements for ventilation and other air cooling systems and all that stuff. With all that knowledge, why were they not able to get to a better figure? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, for the record, the original estimates that were done did show, in fact, there was going to be a substantial increase from the old facility. The attachment provided to members shows that, for example, electricity, the units that they would use, 2.8 million kilowatt hours, as well as unit cost of that, the heating costs of 25,000 gigajoules and the unit costs for that. What happened was the original estimate was done in 1999. It showed a substantial increase. As the facility came online, there was another estimate done using newer information, and it showed once again that the numbers were substantially higher; a \$300,000 difference from the first estimate in 1999 to the 2003-04 year. Based on the concern that the numbers were continuing to change, direction was given to not use these estimates. These estimates were there, but the direction was given that they would not come forward for a request for more money until they could actually prove the hard costs. So until they had one full year of operation that showed actual costs for running the facility -- and that shows on the third one -- actual expenditures for 2003-04 were up to \$1.6 million. The problem -- and it is not a problem, it is a matter of direction given to the health board -- was that they were not going to get any new money with estimates or not. They were going to use existing funds until they had actual costs. Once they had actual costs, then they would come and make their substantiation to the health board or to the Department of Health and Social Services and then to ourselves as FMB. So that was the understanding.

Again, for the record, just to clear the air, estimates were done, but they were not used as it was felt that the numbers had changed substantially, and we would rather just go ahead and come up with actual costs. Once they had the actual costs, then this process kicked into place of coming forward for more money. So I just want to be clear. There was not a missed estimation or an underestimation done. Estimations were provided and tracked as the project came online, but the feeling was do not go ahead on that basis. Use your existing dollars. Once you have the actual costs of the year, then come forward. That is why we are here now. Actual costs have been proven and brought forward. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. I have next Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. My request two days ago was to investigate the process which led to what could appear as a significant change in the figures. I want to thank the Minister for bringing forward and making that process very crystal clear that it was on the direction of FMB to work with the old numbers until actual costs were derived. This seems absolutely clear to me. I would suggest that we conclude the page then. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Okay. Thank you for that, Mr. Hawkins. I didn't hear a question there, so I won't ask the Minister to comment on it. So back on to page 10 of the bill. Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$1.49 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Community health programs, not previously authorized, negative \$855,000. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Could I get the Minister to explain why this money has been taken out of this budget? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, what happened here is that the original amount was approved under O and M. It is for capital work. It is being transferred over to the capital side, so it is just being registered as a negative here. It is not being taken away and the money reduced. It is being transferred to the capital program. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I understand, from the information, \$350,000 of \$855,000 is being used for office renovations, but I still don't have the information on the remainder of that \$855,000. Could the Minister provide that, please? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. My understanding of the breakdown of those costs is as follows: there were some renovations done and some work; Fort Smith health authority had \$60,000 for an office for community counselling program; Fort Smith renovations for a birthing room; Inuvik improvements to office space for a social worker, home care, public health nurse, community health representatives positions; and, in Yellowknife for office space for medical and support staff. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. Unless I missed it, I heard \$60,000, but I didn't hear the remainder of the dollar figures. May I have that, please?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I will provide the numbers; sorry about that. The first one was \$60,000 for health authority, Fort Smith, for the community counselling program. The birthing room was \$90,000. Inuvik improvements to office space for positions were \$355,000. Office space for medical and support staff was \$350,000. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Community health programs, not previously authorized, negative \$855,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$635,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Justice, operations expenditures, registries and court services, not previously authorized, \$422,000. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. May I just ask the Minister as to whether this is a yearly increase or is it something that comes periodically? How often does the commission review the salary of judges? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is every three years we end up going through this process. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Registries and court services, not previously authorized, \$422,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$145,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$567,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Moving on to page 12, NWT Housing Corporation, operations expenditures, NWT Housing Corporation, not previously authorized, \$324,000. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The information we have says to us that this is to provide funding for the purchase of property in Wha Ti and Rae-Edzo pursuant to the employee house purchase plan. I am afraid I don't understand what this money is going toward. Is the government buying the units for the employees? May I have more elaboration on this? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are purchasing the units back from our employees. This is the tail-end of a program that was in place by the government where we tried to encourage employees to buy units in communities. If they were transferred or left their positions, then we would buy back the houses. The residual number of units were transferred over to the Housing Corporation when the program shut down. These are a number of the last units. I don't have the actual number. There are not many left, but this is fulfilling our end of those agreements. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to be clear, I just want to make sure. I would like to have confirmation from the Minister that this doesn't have anything to do with the 22 mobile homes we bought to encourage the markets in communities so that employees who come up north to work could have places where they pay their own rent. I just want confirmation that this doesn't have anything to do with that program. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. No, it doesn't. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Minister indicated that it was the tail-end of this Employee Home Purchase Program. I thought it ended two years ago. Can the Minister comment on that?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is right. The program ceased, but there were still a number of people who were part of the original program. They were grandfathered. This program is no longer available. It was just those that were left on the list when the program shut down. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. This obviously urges the next question. How many more employees out there are grandfathered? How many more houses would we have to buy back? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't have the actual figures left on that. We can't provide that information as to the number who were grandfathered. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. I understand a little about the program. We pay fair market value for these units. Are these indicated as fair market value for these units that we are purchasing from the employees? What has been going on in the past, too, is that employees give the government a high rate knowing that it is going to be reduced. To me, it seems kind of high. Maybe the Minister can comment on that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The purchase price of the units is based on an independent appraisal. First, the individual has to try to sell the unit

themselves. They have to prove that they have been trying to sell the unit and have not been successful. Then the guidelines provide for 90 percent of the first \$80,000 of appraised value, and then 80 percent of the remaining value of the house up to a maximum of \$180,000. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Did the Minister say up to a maximum of \$180,000 dollars?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Yes, I believe he did. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you for answering the question, Madam Chair. Because before, that's what happened in the not previously authorized amount for \$184,000. What is the inconsistency here?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The \$184,000 ends up dealing with a couple of other figures in there. The negotiated purchase price ended up being \$180,000, but the inspection cost was \$1,685 and the closing adjustments were \$2,521. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. NWT Housing Corporation, operations expenditures, NWT Housing Corporation, not previously authorized, \$324,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Total department \$324,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Page 13, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, advanced education and careers, special warrants, not previously authorized, \$4 million. Does this say \$4,000? Oh, okay, \$4,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. There are some zero's missing on there. Education, Culture and Employment, special warrants, not previously authorized, \$2.5 million. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. This amount here is quite a well-rounded number, \$2.5 million. I'm wondering if the Minister could advise how close is this to the cost of this renovation or is this basically an up-front deposit, if you will? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is the estimate that has been brought forward. It breaks down for a number of things that happened and I will provide those: gymnasium wing repairs were \$1.1 million, foyer replacement is estimated at \$650,000, classroom wing cosmetic upgrades \$500,000, and repair work to

date is \$250,000. The work is still ongoing on the foyer end of things, but the gymnasium was as a result of the fire that happened right on the heels of the actual collapse of the foyer.

Madam Chair, as a result of the collapse, there was some damage to the foyer entrance and the library, stuff like that, so that included that and as we got into the repairs we also had to do upgrades on other parts of the facility because of code requirement. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Were any of these damages covered by insurance? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Unfortunately, no, as our new deductible limit is \$10 million, so anything up to \$10 million we pay from our own sources. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Of course, God forbid if this ever happens again to anyone, let alone any territorial facility, but just anywhere. Were there any preliminary findings as to the cause of this, other than the simple answer of snow? Was there a structural default in the roof of this building of some sort that could lead to the cause of this? Could the Minister kind of highlight some of the root cause again, other than the snow? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, after a substantial amount of work done on this from the finance and insurance side, an audit was done on the facility as well as work done from the Public Works and Services end, to see if the procedures that were being followed and done were appropriate, as well as what may have been the cause of the failure.

There were a number of things that happened and the difficulty is the fact that this building is 37 years old and trying to go back to the actual construction of the facility and further repairs that may have been done. In doing the history and going back we had found that the roof itself was not a reason for collapse under pressure of snow, it wasn't the trusses that were looked at. There was work done in that area, there was identified some repairs that happened after the original construction that we had to have a closer look at. When it comes down to it, a number of things came on and it wasn't the roof itself, it wasn't the support structure there, but what they found was the rear wall of the facility had collapsed and caused the rest of the roof to cave in. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. That being said, recognizing that buildings certainly have a lifecycle and 37 years is a life, possibly that wall had lived its life. Would the Minister be able to assure us today that maybe

this has created a paradigm shift on how we maintain our buildings? Possibly a policy change, and you know whereas we buy some ladders, shovels and snowsuits, that we make sure that these are clear from the anomalies of big, heavy snowfalls of some sort? Is there a policy change on how we maintain these buildings and what we are doing about it? Could the Minister elaborate? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. As a result of this we did go back and look at our operations from the Public Works side and reviewed the practices that were being used, looked at other buildings in the territory that were constructed at the similar time, that had similar design and looked at, again, the operations that we did of O and M or maintenance. Those that we've felt that we had to have a closer look at, there was further inspection just to make sure that we did not find ourselves in that area, and maintenance procedures were looked at. In those places where we felt that there may be a possibility of something like this -- although remote as it is -- some of our practices have been adjusted. So there has been a fair bit of work done looking at facilities across the North of similar structure, similar design and with similar conditions on them, being the winter.

Initially, there was a lot of concern about snow load, and after the review it was confirmed it was not snow load that caused the collapse. There were some deficiencies in the rear wall itself. But trying to go back to that and track down actual contractors which are no longer in existence is very difficult. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just one quick question with regard to the fire, the aftermath of the fire. I'm just wondering, Madam Chair, if the Minister can explain what kind of security was brought in after the collapse of the foyer. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. There were a number of things that happened. One was to cordon off the area itself where the collapse happened. The facility was not in use for about three weeks. Repairs were started, inspections done on the facility and the normal work that would happen about that. When it was about to be opened, unfortunately there was an incident occurred where an individual had decided that they did not want to return to school is my understanding. So they lit one section of the school on fire. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to follow up with what Mr. Hawkins said earlier, I'm just wondering if in cases like this you can have more stringent procedures for security and all that if it happens to another building. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, part of the other end of this is from the insurance side in ensuring that we don't sustain major losses. Risk assessments have been done in a number of areas to ensure our facilities are safe, that we have the proper procedures in place, and that in some cases we're not over insured as well as not under insured. Also ensuring that they're safe to go in because we sure don't want to be caught in the situation where we lose any more. Thankfully there were no injuries as a result, beyond that of the fireman who was trying to help extinguish the fire that happened there. Beyond that, the security that then happened around the place because of the fire, as well as the collapse, there was a contract put in place to ensure that there was no further access. Once the work was done and the place secured and the normal mechanisms for entrances could be locked, there hasn't been a further extension of that contract. That is something we'd have difficulty doing, is trying to get back into a place where we'd have 24-hour surveillance. When it comes to the safety of our building and assets, when it comes to self-insurance we have to ensure we have proper and adequate oversight on these things. But we don't have a 24-hour contract in place for supervision. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, special warrants, \$2.5 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, special warrant, \$2.5 million, not previously authorized, \$4,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): On page 14, Transportation, operations expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$81,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Can I ask a question on the \$40,000 for the Yellowknife air terminal building? My understanding is this has something to do with contaminated areas or some areas there that need to be cleaned, but in this here it just says it's for new baggage screening equipment and increased passenger volumes. Could I just get some more detail on that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The first part of this, the \$40,000 stated, is a result of a decision made that affects the Yellowknife Airport. We have to increase our baggage screening equipment and process. The second part of that, the \$41,000, is the transfer of assets and the accounting of those assets for the Aklavik and Tulita old airport terminal facilities. The \$400,000 involves much more that comes into play around the discussions the Department of Transportation

has had with CATSA -- that's the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority -- in the amount of work that needs to be done at that facility to bring it up to code before the year 2006. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. My apologies; I mixed up two different items there. For Yellowknife air terminal building I'm just not sure why the money was spent in this way in that we have been aware since the September 11th attack that there have been lots of requirements being imposed on various airports, the Yellowknife Airport being one of them, to upgrade their facilities and baggage areas and better security and such. I'd like to know why it is that this was not incorporated into a main transportation budget and what transpired that required this to be spent, the money to be allocated in this way. We could understand the fire at the Inuvik school requiring emergency money, but why would the Yellowknife Airport require emergency money? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the work around the Yellowknife Airport and the discussions with CATSA were ongoing for quite some time. The department had hoped to conclude their discussions with CATSA to include it into the normal building cycle. Our concern was that as a result of what was being required around the baggage handling system, it was going to have further impacts on the facility and we were trying to secure more funding. Those discussions, unfortunately, carried over the timeline that would have allowed them to go into the previous business plan process when a decision was made and the timeline that was established to get the project underway did not allow for it to fall into the regular business planning process. So a number of things happened. One, during the discussion and negotiations that were taking place from our side, we felt there had to be more funds coming forward for this work that was happening; secondly, when the decision was finally made and we realized there was not going to be any further funding, we had to then act and put this in place because when you follow the timeline from when this equipment had to be in place and operation back to the building cycle, it was felt that we needed to proceed with this in this manner. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Then can we have an indication as to whether this is just the start of a lot more operational money that we are going to be approving? This is just to take care of things that need to be taken care of this year or in the interim before the next budget comes, because we know later on in the supplementary appropriation we have requests for a big capital funding that is going to go to the airport. I just want to know if this \$40,000 for the Yellowknife Airport is stage one of many stages that are going to come and how much the final tally will be. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the project itself will be substantially more than what this is. This item is just the first little piece of it. On page 19 of the document is a further amount that is being requested or that we've...(inaudible)...accounted for. In the 2004-2005 year we're looking at \$3.4 million. When this work is done, on the operational side we estimate will be another \$160,000 ongoing just for operations and maintenance. The rest of the plan will fall into the normal procedures through the business plan, through the capital infrastructure process. It's my understanding that this information was shared from the Department of Transportation with members to inform them that this, in fact, was going to be happening. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Transportation, operations expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$81,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Highways, special warrants, \$273,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, special warrants, \$273,000, not previously authorized, \$81,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): On page 15, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$15,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, not previously authorized, \$200,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. I'd like to have some more information on that because it sounds to me like this is an ongoing program and why is it that this was not in the budget to start with? Why did that happen? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The program itself was originated back in the days of the 13th Assembly, I believe, 1994. A program was initiated. The total amount of the program was for \$15 million and eligible groups were able to apply for it. A formula was established based on the general hunting licences held by each region. That split out that money. It had to be matched by the organization. So if an organization wanted to see this, they had to come up with their dollars and it had to be put into a separate account and then they could start accessing it for those harvesters. The amount that's left has shrunk substantially from the days it was put in. It is a capped program, so the only reason it's ongoing is that some organizations haven't drawn down what they were eligible for when this program first came out. The

reason it doesn't show up in the regular budget planning process is that we're unaware of who would make a requirement on that fund and at what time of the year they would put in an application. It could sit there for a number of years without being drawn down, and until an organization comes forward with a plan in matching dollars, it sits there and we just address it this way because we're unable to account for it when we go through our planning process. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Madam Chair, I'm wondering about the outcome of these programs. Perhaps I should start by asking to what degree are organizations that receive contributions accountable for results or performance? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, when the funding is forwarded and a proposal put in, there is an accounting of it done through the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and they have to show how they'd use that money and what purposes it was used for and if, in fact, it did fit what the requirements were. So there is an accounting back to the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Yakeleya): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise what kinds of programs or projects or initiatives are being contemplated here by the Fort Smith Metis Council? I'm trying to get a sense here of where public funds are going and if there is a well-thought-out plan and a way of measuring and reporting back on what this money has done. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this portion is our share of it. It's cost shared with the Fort Smith Metis Council. I don't have a copy of the actual proposal that was put in and what the intention of the funding is. I believe the Minister of RWED does have some information on that though.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you. The proposal was received from the Fort Smith Metis Council prior to signing, obviously, the contribution agreement. The funding request was to be used to purchase snowmobiles, ATVs, outboard motors, boats and various equipment required to help harvesters. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that was the general practice of all organizations that did get these funds. It was again intended for harvesters and to support them in maintaining their harvesting practices. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In an earlier debate in this session we talked quite a bit about accountability and debt and the requirement of government to monitor and keep track of where these funds are going to ensure that at least they're going into the purpose originally intended. On this one here, like all others, I would like to ask if there is a way we are indeed monitoring, showing proof, and that we have a way if things don't go as planned that we can recover or have some recourse to getting back these funds. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one of the requirements to qualify under this is that an annual financial report would be provided to the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. As well, I should state that the practice of cost sharing just between the government and ourselves is one level, but as well from the organization to the harvester it's not a full purchase of equipment, it's cost shared at that level as well. I can ask the Minister responsible to provide more detail on that reporting requirement. Thank you.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you. I think the Minister has already indicated some of the criteria around the program, matching dollars from the organization and the money can't be used for administrative purposes, there is a requirement for record keeping. The contribution agreement I imagine is typical of the contribution agreements that we've done with this program. There's a separate bank account set up to administer the account. There's a requirement of an equal contribution to come from the organization. There are payment terms set out. There's a list of eligible expenses. Then there's provision for audits. There's a requirement for record keeping. The organization has to maintain good financial records according to GNWT accepted accounting principles for third parties. They have to provide, as the Minister has already indicated, an audited financial report to the Minister. There's an allowance that permits employees of RWED to access the books on reasonable notice, et cetera. So I'm quite satisfied with the conditions and terms of the contribution agreement. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: No, nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Braden. Resource management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$200,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Forest management, special warrants, \$4.651 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know what's budgeted for fire suppression every year is in the tune of \$7.4 million. I just wanted to ask the Minister if during years where we have damp seasons, very low fire conditions and we have dollars left over in our budget, if the department is going to consider or can consider putting that money into a revolving fund which can accumulate over several years instead of putting it back into general revenue so we don't have to come out with any supplementary appropriations during years of extreme fire conditions. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would be willing to look at establishing a revolving fund. That's something I can bring back to my FMB colleagues as something we would look at putting into place. We do have a history of revolving accounts within the Government of the Northwest Territories. So we are willing to look at that process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Forest management, special warrants, \$4.651 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, special warrants, \$4.651 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department not previously authorized, \$215,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 16, Department of Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditure, petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$1.08 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To this item, the aspect of repairs and maintenance to fuel tank farms is something that is pretty well established. We've got considerable familiarity with this over the years. Something that's unusual about this is a project of this size, just over \$1 million, comes to us as not previously authorized. The maintenance and placement of tank farms is usually something we can plan on quite normally through the business planning process. Why does the Sachs Harbour project appear on this more urgent basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this project was on the books and a planned program was in place. We did have to bring in an individual to look at this who specializes in these types of structures. There were some noted concerns about it and in the report we were given, we were informed that there was a high potential of environmental risk here if we did not move this project ahead. So what you see here is the fact that we've had to bring the cash flow up sooner than

we had originally planned. The original plan for this year would have been about \$20,000 for some initial work. In 2005-06, about \$225,000 and then the bulk happening in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Because of the situation we find ourselves in, we've had to advance all of that money, so the bulk of it will happen this year as highlighted by this request. Then we are looking at a large part of that happening in the 2005-06 year. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: So we had something that hadn't been anticipated. Is this a repair or refit, Mr. Chairman, or does this advance the whole project in its entirety for replacement?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a replacement. It is not a refit. As I said, we did realize there was a concern here and put a plan in place to fix that. On the report coming back from the consultant, we were made aware that we would have to move that project ahead significantly.

As well, as I stated earlier, that is the full replacement of the tank and the fuel lines that they use to refill that facility. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally, does this estimate include the cost of decommissioning and cleaning up the old facility? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this budget does allow for about \$250,000 for the removal of the vertical tank and the access vaults and a portion of the three resupply lines, and then \$25,000 provided for the remediation of some of the soils in that area. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that this item is here because it's been moved forward by two years because the experts are saying that unless something is done to fix this, there might be an environmental disaster happening. I don't know to what extent. Could I get the Minister to tell me about the time frame? Is the work being done already? I would hate to see anything like that happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, the money is being spent in this year. What has been happening is we hired the consultants initially to look at the facility, as well as a replacement process that goes on. There are tests being done on the three resupply pipelines, as well there is an awarding of the construction contract for two vertical tanks and an order of resupply piping and a number of other things. So

this is work that will be done so they can be prepared for the barge shipping dates in the summer of 2005. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$1.08 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.08 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 17, Department of Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditure, health services program, not previously authorized, \$855,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I get some information on the \$355,000 for Inuvik and \$350,000 for Yellowknife? Are any of these offices for Inuvik services being housed in the new hospital by any chance, or is it in a completely different building? Is it just for renovation? It just says improvements. Could I get more detail on that? Where is this office space for medical and support staff being renovated in Yellowknife? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Yellowknife office space for medical staff support, that's to do with the Frame Lake Medical Clinic expansion to make room for more doctors that have been hired here in the capital. So it's to make room for them.

The one for Inuvik is not with the existing hospital. Right now, those services are held outside in a different facility and they are doing renovations to fit in the 17 positions that have been there, but they've used other office space that they are now trying to upgrade to match the needs of the work being done. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are the 17 new positions for this year? What has caused the need? Why is it coming up as not previously authorized? If they were old positions, why wasn't office space for them considered in the previous budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are not new positions. They were providing services for the community of Inuvik, so they moved from the regional hospital. That's my understanding. They were fit into an office space that was not designed for the program that's being offered. This has been in the works for awhile but did not make the cut initially as the plans went forward, so they have come forward on this basis.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am ignorant in this new area here. Is this a new approach to the delivery of programs? It must be the integrated service model that Minister Miltenberger has been talking about for the last five years or the last three years. He's been the Minister for the last three years. Is that a move to bring all these providers under the same umbrella incorporating what they are doing and they have to be in the same building? Is that the need for improvements, or is it that the separate offices where they are housed need separate renovations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I will have the Minister of Health and Social Services provide a response to that. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the renovation in Inuvik is to make the office space more habitable. If memory serves me correctly, the offices are in the Semmler Building. They are very crowded. They are trying to renovate to better accommodate the staff. I know they've had at least two major sewage backups that have caused a lot of damage. So this is to deal with that particular issue in terms of accommodating the staff. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I have nothing further to that, Mr. Chairman.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all of my questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$855,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$855,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 18, Department of Justice, capital investment expenditures, public legal services, special warrant, \$115,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of questions in this area. I will try to be as quick as possible here. First of all, I would like to know why this is being approved or the government is bringing this under a special warrant. I can see a tank farm that's deteriorating that has potential environmental consequences or a school collapsing. I could see those things brought

forward for expenditure under a special warrant, but why is a second Legal Aid clinic and renovation of that coming under a special warrant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the reason that it's come forward in this manner is that there is a large backlog of work that needs to be done to get this facility up and running. This avenue was chosen to try to meet those needs and the timing of it. It was felt that this needed to be done to meet the needs of the public interest in this area. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all due respect to all the people who are waiting in line for Legal Aid lawyers, we know this has been an ongoing thing for many years. We know the current practice is anything the Legal Aid clinic cannot handle, they get farmed off to private lawyers. That's how this gets done. It's quite troubling that something like this is done by way of a special warrant which really ties the hands of the members here because once this has been allocated, there is nothing we can do about it and \$115,000 is gone. I have a problem with that and I believe the use of special warrants should be revisited.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I have a question on some of the timing of this. The information the Minister has give us is that the tender for the office space for a second Legal Aid clinic went out on August 9th. It was closed on August 27th. On August 31st, it was determined that there were no successful bidders, but the information we have here is that on August 22nd, five days before the proposal closed, the special warrant was approved by FMB to spend \$115,000 for leasehold improvements. That's just to renovate what turned out to be a shoe store into an office. How was it determined, five days before the deal was determined, how much money had to be spent? As of today, there has been no renovation that has taken place with this money. That space is still a shoe store and there is not one cent of the money spent. Why was it determined that on August 22nd, even before the lease was let, that money had to be allocated for improvements? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process that's used and this government has taken a proactive approach, that we have moved as soon as taking office to address the issue of Legal Aid services and a family law clinic, so they can go ahead and hire the lawyers necessary and get that ready. Once we knew the size of the facility, what was going to be required, there is going to be a refit cost that we are aware of. It was brought forward on the basis that this was going to be needed when you look at the type of space that's required, the changes that would be made, this estimate was brought forward. It's based on the whole process kicking off October 1st. That's when we originally anticipated having the clinic open its doors. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my understanding, from the information the Minister has provided to us, is that the Legal Services Board had toured the facility and saw that there might be some concerns about the privacy of the clients. They've asked for the window, for example, that is there right now -- because it's a storefront location -- that those windows be frosted, so that privacy could be guaranteed. I am sure there are extra costs that are going to be incurred as a result of this space being a shoe store at the moment and having to be turned into an office space. The public can see right now that that premise is occupied. Can I ask the Minister whether either DPW or the Legal Services Board people had any idea that this was in use and it was not possible for a Legal Aid office to be opened as of October 1st? In fact, it is October 22nd today and there have been no renovation that have taken place there. What was the government's knowledge of this?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when the plan came forward, there was no identified office space. It was a plan that we knew would go into gear. We had approved the money for the O and M side to hire the lawyers, to have the other staff in place, that we would be needing office space. Based on the design of what would be required, there was an estimate made of the needed alterations to any office space out there, and based on that we had approved it because it was needed to get it in place, to have the doors open potentially by October 1st. We know now that that's not what happened, because when the RFP was initially put out there was no suitable space found. So that put a delay in things, and that process of trying to find suitable space went on much longer than was initially anticipated. So when the plan was put together, there was no location, there was a system of space that was needed that we planned on and the estimates were based on.

So, number one, an RFP was issued to get the O and M in place, that's hiring of staff; two, based on that number of staff required, an estimate was made of what space requirements would be needed, and, based on that, an estimate for refitting had come forward; again, all on the plan that the doors would be open by October 1st. As a result and as we know now, that plan didn't come out as we had anticipated. So a decision was made based on a plan of events that we thought would occur. When the original timing of the completion of the RFP had come back and there was no suitable space, that threw a monkey wrench into the whole thing in that we were not able to complete what was planned. So there was a feeling that we had a plan in process, we were moving along with that plan, and, as many members are aware, office space here in Yellowknife is very tight, and the original RFP didn't work out. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you. I think it's open to debate whether or not there were any other spaces, but for now, Mr. Chairman, I just want to concentrate on this item in front of us, \$115,000 for a lease improvement that was approved on August 22nd. What I'm gathering from what the Minister is saying is that this amount was approved in advance without knowing the details. It's an approximation of what it would cost to do lease

improvements to make the space suitable for the office. Would the Minister say that there's a very good possibility that we may need more money to improve, especially given that there were extra things being thrown in here that were not anticipated and we are in a prime retail store? Also, I just want to confirm before today is over, the information I have is that the cost of the lease is \$379 per square metre. Is that yearly or is that monthly? Yearly it's working out to about \$36,000 a year. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the government operates on estimates. An estimate was made based on the requirements that would be needed for that space. We know what the type of requirements are, so we went ahead on that basis as we do with other things. What we could potentially find here is we could go either way. There might not be the requirement for the full amount, or there might be a requirement for more, but I highly doubt that, as we're aware of the type of space that's required and the estimates put in place with the space requirements. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. I would like to thank the Honourable Floyd Roland, Minister responsible for FMBS; and also Lew Voytilla.

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Seconded by the Honourable Michael Miltenberger. There is a motion on the floor.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Before I call for the orders of the day, Members, for any of you who may be travelling home this weekend, I wish you a safe journey home. I would also like to invite all Members to join me at 3:00 p.m. today on the first floor of the Laing Building for the official opening of the new offices for the statutory officers of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Governance and Economic Development committee at adjournment of the House today.

Orders of the day for Monday, October 25th, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 18-15(3), Single Rate Power Zone
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 48-15(3), Sessional Statement
 - 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 Monday, October 25, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

