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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, October 27, 2004****Members Present**

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, Members. Before we begin, I would like to draw your attention to the visitor's gallery. I am pleased to recognize the district governor, Bruce Christensen and his wife, Cheryl, from Fort St. John, B.C.

---Applause

With them is president Janet Robinson of the Yellowknife Rotary Club.

---Applause

District Governor Bruce represents 53 rotary clubs in Western Canada: Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia; and two in the NWT: Yellowknife and Hay River. Rotary internationals are preparing to celebrate 100 years of community and international service by 1.2 million Rotarians in 166 countries. Their most outstanding achievement in conjunction with international health organizations will be a polio-free world by the end of 2005.

---Applause

Also with them is a fellow Rotarian, acting as their official guide, and a former Speaker of this House, Mr. Tony Whitford.

---Applause

Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Enjoy your visit to the North. To the orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On Land Development To Address Housing Needs**

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the price of residential land is determined by the location, cost of development, and supply and demand. Before you have houses, you have to have land to put them on. In Yellowknife, the cost of land has gone through the roof because of the lack of supply and an ever-increasing demand. People are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to live in cramped townhouses with no land just to put a roof over the heads of their families.

Mr. Speaker, they are the lucky ones. Others are being forced out of apartments that they can no longer afford because of escalating rents. The Salvation Army shelter is full to overflowing with many in this situation. Furthermore, we are trying to encourage skilled people

to come and work in the North, but we can't offer them affordable housing.

With the construction of the pipeline requiring all available labour, the Territories is going to be desperate for qualified trades people. The cost of housing up here and the lack of it is going to affect our ability to attract them. Already we have hundreds of fly-in/fly-out workers. Their income taxes and wages are flying out with them, Mr. Speaker. This situation is really strange, Mr. Speaker. We have 1.17 million square kilometres of land, but one of our main housing problems is we have no land to build on.

In the interest of both private and social housing, Mr. Speaker, in areas where land claims are settled, we need to deal with the backlogs and try to speed up the process of transferring land to fee-simple title. Where land claims are not settled, we need to work with community and aboriginal governments to come up with a better way of agreeing to what lands can be developed. Deadlocks are not serving anyone's interest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Log Housing Pilot Projects In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today is on log housing pilot projects in the Sahtu and Northwest Territories. Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation funding is declining; \$33.2 million will be phased out by the year 2038. This is a substantial challenge to the GNWT as a whole, and the NWT Housing Corporation in particular.

A creative solution is needed, Mr. Speaker. According to the community housing needs and detailed results, tabled in the House on October 21st, 35 percent of houses in the Sahtu are in core need. Overcrowding is a problem. Between 13 and 21 percent of homes outside of the regional centre have six persons or more living in them. Only four percent of homes in Yellowknife are this crowded. The average for the Territories as a whole is seven percent.

Since 1981, the percentage of houses in need of major repairs has increased in every one of the communities in the Sahtu, with the exception of Colville Lake. Colville Lake has decreased from 100 percent to 85 percent since 2000. Thirty-nine percent of Fort Good Hope homes are in need of major repairs today. The majority of the GNWT housing budget is spent in communities: 89 percent of the budget.

It is important that communities are consulted on how the communities' needs can be best met. People in the Sahtu are interested in log homes as a viable option at least for seniors. This program can potentially promote self-reliance, provide youth with training opportunities, and get away from cultural dependency. Mr. Speaker, the department says that they are reluctant to pursue this initiative. That initiative has failed in the past due to the high cost of logs and the cost of trainers. The cost is substantially reduced when you factor in the benefits of capacity building, local materials and housing that is more culturally appropriate for our people: the pride of creating a home.

Mr. Speaker, the report on the draft estimates that the program for smaller communities are more economically...(inaudible)...Mr. Speaker, the official records show no indication that the current Minister of Housing is going to follow through on the commitment made by the previous Minister. I will ask questions during oral question period. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Health Concerns Arising From Co-op Housing Conditions

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak once again on the issue of housing in our communities; not about housing statistics or policies and programs, today I want to put a human face on housing. I want to tell you the story of one of my constituents and the situation she finds herself in. It is a personal story, one of an elderly person involving one household, but it is not unique. I am concerned that there are many such stories out there.

This particular woman received a house from the NWT Housing Corporation about 15 years ago. Until recently, she was very happy with the house. It was a healthy and secure place for her and her family. It was a good thing, Mr. Speaker, good on her and good for the Housing Corporation. But a few years ago, things started to go wrong; not through anyone's fault necessarily, it was probably just due to the age of the house. Water began to seep into the basement; well, not exactly seep. Every spring, as the snow melted, the basement flooded. With so much water coming in the basement of the house, it never completely dried out. As a result, the basement walls are now covered with black mould and, in some places, even green slime.

Now, after living with the problem for several years, the people in the house have developed health problems. First the woman began to suffer from chronic headaches. Now she is making a series of visits to doctors to seek relief from a serious skin rash that has developed. The doctors say she has developed an allergy, something she never suffered from before. She has also developed asthma and is now very concerned about her health. But her primary concern is with the health of her two grandchildren who also live in the house. The youngest, a baby, is constantly ill, and the older grandchild, who is only five years old, has developed asthma too, even at that young age.

The Housing Corporation recognized a problem and, to their credit, spent \$65,000 to repair the house. But here is another sad twist to the story. The house didn't get fixed. The contractor may have done something, but no one from the Housing Corporation came to see if the work had been done properly. As it turns out, it wasn't. The basement still floods, and the health problems of the house occupants persist.

This story isn't over yet, so I am wondering how it will end. Will it have a happy ending? Will this woman get the help she needs and get her house fixed properly, or does this story end tragically with debilitating lifelong health problems?

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Members, I would like to draw your attention once more to the visitor's gallery with the presence of a former Member of this House, a former Minister, a former Speaker, a former Government House Leader, Mr. Richard Nerysoo.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Member's Statement On Privatization Of Housing Units

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, the NWT Housing Corporation has put some of their units for sale in the NWT; in particular, older units or units considered to be in need of major repair.

Mr. Speaker, there are, as I see it, two types of buyers for these units. Firstly, there are the elderly, who have lived in these units for 20 years or more. Once they purchase these units, they become responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the units. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that, given the fact that these elders live on a fixed pension income, their purchasing the unit will create hardship for them when they have to pay for ongoing maintenance costs. Now I realize, Mr. Speaker, that the Housing Corporation has provided some relief to elderly homeowners through their newly announced maintenance program that will service things like furnaces. However, it may be necessary in some communities to do more as there is not a private sector to do work on housing units.

A second group of purchasers would be businesspeople who are looking to service a rental market. I know a business in Tuktoyaktuk that purchased two units and spent a considerable amount of money renovating and a considerable amount of time resolving land title issues. He is now having trouble renting these units out because there is a limited private rental market in Tuktoyaktuk at the moment and causes main competition with the units managed by another organization. In any event, Mr. Speaker, this person is a businessman who understood the risk of what he was getting into.

I applaud the Housing Corporation for taking the steps to sell off the old housing stocks. However, Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Housing Corporation to ensure that any

potential purchaser, be it an elder or a businessperson, understand the responsibilities of homeownership and be provided information on the current rental market. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On North Slave Housing Units

MR. ZOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak on a couple of issues affecting housing in my riding of North Slave. I am concerned with the delivery of the market housing initiative in the North Slave in 2005. This year, the community of Rae-Edzo was fortunate enough to receive six units. If there is a need for market housing units in the three other communities in the North Slave, they will have to be shipped in by the winter road usually before April 15th. This is the only option, Mr. Speaker. The last time I looked, there wasn't a summer barge program to Gameti or my two other communities. So if we decide that the program will continue in 2005, the Housing Corporation is going to have to be prepared to ensure that the needs of the communities without a summer road or barge service are met in a very timely manner. Judging by the performance during the first year of the marketing housing initiative, Mr. Speaker, this caused me some concern.

The other area I would like to talk about is the delivery of repair programs in the North Slave. Many of my constituents wait years to have their units repaired. What has been occurring is that the housing authority waits until they have funding to do a major overhaul on a unit. What I would like to see, Mr. Speaker -- to reduce the strain on tenants and provide them with a measure of hope that someone is actually trying to meet their needs -- would be a piecemeal approach where, for example, in one year, people would have their flooring replaced, or perhaps in the following year the doors and windows repaired or replaced. I am sure if the housing authority was seen to be trying to deal with the issue of inadequacy in a timely manner, the corporation might see an even better result for their 2008 housing survey needs.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that there are a lot of good people working at the local level delivering housing programs in the Northwest Territories. They will, however, be faced with more and more challenges as the federal government reduces funding in the delivery of social housing. The district offices will need to work closely and cooperatively with regional governments and land claim organizations, as well as individual housing clients to get the best value for our diminishing housing funding. Our job as government will be to provide the supports the local housing authorities needs to be successful.

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

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for allowing me to conclude my statement. As I was saying, to get the best value for our diminishing housing funding, our job as government will be to provide the supports the local housing authorities need to be successful. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Housing Policies For Persons With Disabilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to speak about my concerns about the territorial government not having a formal policy in dealing with social housing with people with disabilities. Mr. Speaker, I happened to go back to the transcripts and I noted that for some reason that slipped through my fingers during question period, and so I will be raising that concern with much stronger diligence this time.

Mr. Speaker, I had asked the Minister at that time about where our policy is, and I still don't see us having a policy and I'm afraid that got missed. So, Mr. Speaker, I have to compliment the Minister for his willingness to do an audit and I have to say I waswhelmed. Mr. Speaker, it is time we get overwhelmed on this side of the government. It's time that we see true willingness. So, Mr. Speaker, I will be pursuing this shameful policy that we live by or, I should say, without having a policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories could be seen as the king of policy, the king of bureaucracy, but it's time to take a public stand on this issue. It's time to take a public stand where we change our Third World conditions that our people with disabilities are living in and we move forward to the First World conditions. We need a policy, we need a comprehensive booklet that works with national standards, so we need to recognize the conditions that our people are living in and it's time to raise the bar. So, Mr. Speaker, later today I will be asking questions of that Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Innovative Solutions To Housing Concerns

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, new industry, unprecedented resource development and population growth are pushing our social infrastructure to the breaking point. Housing warrants our attention on an urgent basis. Our public and social housing system, Mr. Speaker, is built almost entirely on federal funding. Currently we owe \$90 million in long-term housing loans to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. It costs us \$13 million a year to finance this, Mr. Speaker, and just to give you an illustration on how dependent we are on CMHC, they contribute \$12 million of this \$13 million annual financing cost to us.

Another dependency that we have is almost \$19 million a year in operation and maintenance funding that also

comes from CMHC. Add it all up and this year we will be receiving \$33.2 million from CMHC. But that is a sunset program, Mr. Speaker. Under a 40-year deal that was signed with the corporation in the mid-1990s, this very critical and strategic investment in our infrastructure will dwindle, by 2038, to nothing. Yet the only plan that the NWT Housing Corporation has to restore it is, "to continue to lobby the federal government to restore funding to new public housing units and stop the reduction of O and M funding for existing units." I am quoting from the 2003-06 Business Plans tabled here last February.

Mr. Speaker, this is a remarkably lax and uninspiring strategy in the face of a very vital, but vanishing source of money. I wish the federal government had never backed out of its very critical investment in public housing across the country.

---Applause

We cannot trust our corporation's current strategy, simply to continue lobbying to restore that. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be naive and irresponsible to rest only on that strategy. I believe the solutions lie in innovations and thinking outside the box, Mr. Speaker. The solutions lie in new technology, energy and cost-saving designs, new funding partnerships and a new sense of pride and ownership in all our communities, about the value of public housing and the value of responsible homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Devolution Of Housing Resources To The Community Level

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in case the Members on the other side hadn't noticed yet, we are having a cleaning day today on housing.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read into the record the mandate of the NWT Housing Corporation. The mandate of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is to assist communities to assume the role of providing housing to their residents and to sustain northern economic development. This is achieved by providing leadership and support to communities in the areas of technical research and services, financial support, information sharing, training, as well as economic development initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know when the last time this mandate or this vision statement for the Housing Corporation was visited, but I think it needs to be looked at. I think that these things that are listed here, you could reasonably say are at cross purposes with each other. We are talking about a social program to provide people with accommodation and we are also talking about ways of making money and promoting economic development. There may be some overlap, but I do think that this mandate is perhaps somewhat deceiving.

It brings out a point though with respect to the reference to assisting communities to assume. I think everyone knows that in the Northwest Territories we have very diverse

communities with very diverse lifestyles. When I say diverse communities, some are remote, some are on road systems, some have very traditional lifestyles and some not. Some have market properties available on a rental basis, some do not, where primarily the landlord is the NWT Housing Corporation. So, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to look at the mandate, we do need to provide communities with the opportunity to develop policies and programs which are tailored to the residents of that community. I don't think that there is a one-size-fits-all in terms of programming, and I would like to see more responsibility devolve to the communities so that we can get maximum use of our resource in this area to meet the needs of the people. I could say a lot more about housing, Mr. Speaker, but this is a short opportunity. I look forward to asking the Minister some questions later today. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Need For Senior Housing In Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today about the needs for senior housing in Yellowknife, and the need for the Department of Health and Social Services and the NWT Housing Corporation to partner strongly in meeting the objectives of the YACCS in Yellowknife who's excellent work in this area.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, a 2002 feasibility and market research study commissioned by the YACCS has shown very clearly that there is huge need for senior housing in Yellowknife, because there are a lot more people now retiring in Yellowknife and that's a good thing and the government should welcome that and accommodate essential needs of seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I could tell you that there are Avens independent courts in the middle of Yellowknife, there are 24 units and last year there was a zero turnover rate in that 24-unit complex. This year there was one, and there is a waiting list of 10. Clearly, at one a year with a waiting list of 10, that would take 10 years, and it is unreasonable for government to expect that these seniors should sit around and wait for these units to become available.

One of the ideas that YACCS has, it has worked out a feasibility plan to build a senior housing condominium in the space that they have available there. They own the land, they have a financial plan, they have a physical plan and they are gathering interest from the seniors who would want to live there. It really requires the help of the Housing Corporation to make this happen and I would urge the government to engage in this process in a very aggressive way.

Mr. Speaker, the second way we could deal with the housing shortage for seniors is to build a dementia facility in Yellowknife. There are very strong studies done by YACCS that show a huge need, not only in the city of Yellowknife, but in surrounding areas. It has been proven, care providers have known for years that the needs of seniors are changing and those with dementia require specialized facilities and specialized programming. The Avens Manor, as it exists and it was meant to work,

cannot cater to that. They have a program in place, they have a plan in place, they have a design, they have everything in line. All they need is some support from the Department of Health and Social Services, which the Minister has not done so far and I urge him to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On NWT Housing Corporation Rent Scale Policy

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to use my Member's statement today to talk about the NWT Housing Corporation's rent scale policy. Mr. Speaker, the rent scale policy of the NWT Housing Corporation is geared solely on income and has remained unchanged since its first implementation 30 years ago. There have been numerous consultation processes done by the Housing Corporation with local housing organizations, public housing clients, and the public in general on how the rent scale policy can be adjusted or changed to be more in harmony with the needs of public housing clients.

Mr. Speaker, talk of change in the rent scale has gone on for too long. It is time for the Housing Corporation to start the ball rolling towards a system of public housing rental rates which reflect and assist persons in public housing to move away from public housing units and into more independent housing. The current system, as everyone is aware, is a system which encourages people to remain in public housing, encourages people to not go out and look for a job and, sadly, encourages people to not pay rent at all. This government has been dragging its feet on the issue for too long and it's time to roll out a new policy which has been developed, and show persons in public housing and the public and the people in the NWT that the Housing Corporation is not all talk, but does have a plan to moving forward with harmonizing needs with resources. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question 254-15(3): Aurora College Lease In Northern United Place

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Hawkins on October 19, 2004, regarding the Aurora College lease in Northern United Place.

The lease at Northern United Place is administered by Aurora College in Fort Smith. I have been advised that the lease expires on August 31, 2007, and has two five-year renewal options.

My department has been working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to review various

accommodation options for Aurora College. The discussions are very preliminary and no decisions have yet been made. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize a former Member of this House, the former Member for Mackenzie Delta and now the chief for the Inuvik Band Council, Mr. Richard Nerysoo.

---Applause

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

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Mr. Richard Nerysoo, a former classmate of mine from years ago. It's good to see him up there. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I'll take this opportunity to welcome any of our guests who we have visiting with us in the gallery today who haven't been recognized. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 315-15(3): Future Investments In Housing

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To follow up on the theme today, my questions are directed to Mr. Krutko, the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I was looking at the business plan for the corporation and reflecting on the diminishing funding levels from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which today amount to in the order of \$33 million a year. These will sunset. My question, Mr. Speaker, is what lobbying efforts are underway now to restore federal investment in public housing in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 315-15(3): Future Investments In Housing

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Member for that question. Presently we are in dialogue and talks with the people from the AFN -- Billy Erasmus -- with regards to aboriginal housing in Canada. Like I noted earlier, I had a meeting with the federal Minister in Vancouver a number of weeks ago and I believe that the national attention that is on housing and

homelessness is out there. I think because of that we, in the North, also have to realize that with these declining funds from CMHC, we have to find new ways of facing our challenges.

We are working with other agencies out there, especially the people in the First Nations community, AFN. We're also scheduled to meet with the federal Minister at the First Ministers' meeting at the end of November. That is the process right now that we're using to dialogue with other organizations. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 315-15(3): Future Investments In Housing

MR. BRADEN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So we really have nothing more than another meeting scheduled among Ministers. If the Minister would like to expand on anything there, I'd welcome it at some point, but I'd like to know what other options is our Housing Corporation looking at to ensure that we will continue to have adequate investment in our housing infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 315-15(3): Future Investments In Housing

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now, as a corporation, we are in the process of reviewing the mandate of this corporation. We are taking a look at the program services we do deliver. Also, we are looking at a 10-year plan to look forward on exactly where we go as a corporation and to take on the challenges that we're facing. We have to find more unique ways of delivering housing in the Northwest Territories, especially with the number of houses that are going to be required. I know a couple of Members touched on the whole area of selling off public housing. That's one area we're looking at and, in order to achieve that, to sell off public housing and replacing them with multi-units where we have six or seven units instead of the high cost to operate or maintain a single dwelling. I think those are the types of things we're looking at doing and moving toward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Your supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 315-15(3): Future Investments In Housing

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the 2004-06 business plan outlines a goal to build between 750 and 800 units in the NWT over the next five years. This is under the affordable housing strategy. Now, this goal is about 18 months old. It's the most recent one that I could find that's before the public, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to ask if these targets, 750 to 800 units over the next five years, are still in place. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 315-15(3): Future Investments In Housing

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, that is one of the goals we are trying to meet but, based on the budget restraints we do have, in order to meet those goals there are certain things that have to happen. In order to do that we have to sell off units by way of almost 50 units a year to individuals who are either living in those units or to the private sector and replace those units with multi-plex units -- like I mentioned, the six-plex or eight-plex units -- to ensure that we're able to fill that gap in order to meet that. The key to this is we have to change the way we do business, but to meet that goal we have to implement the 10-year plan that we have put forward and follow that plan to meet that goal at the end of the day.

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

Supplementary To Question 315-15(3): Future Investments In Housing

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Okay, so there seems to be some momentum and some innovation here. The Minister has mentioned something about a 10-year plan. Is this something that has been put before the public or the Assembly and could the Minister tell us more about this initiative? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 315-15(3): Future Investments In Housing

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the 10-year plan, it has been presented to committee. I have presented a briefing to committee on the 10-year plan and some of the initiatives that we're looking at doing. Also, the whole idea of selling off these units is one of the ideas in the plan; replacing that with the revenue we get. At the present time, we receive almost \$70 million a year from the Government of the Northwest Territories. That's about seven percent of the total budget of this government. In order to meet that goal, we will have to lobby my colleagues on this side of the House to put more money into housing to ensure that we're able to meet that goal. Right now, seven percent of the \$70 million comes forward by way of a grant program through the Government of the Northwest Territories with regard to our operational costs for the Housing Corporation. In order to achieve that, we have to increase it.

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

Question 316-15(3): Housing Health Issues

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. My question today is for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. One of the things that I've been addressing ever since I've been elected was in Fort Liard we had a huge mould problem and I was trying to get the government to come up with some kind of mould action plan. I was just wondering if the Minister can tell me to date what has occurred with respect to this. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 316-15(3): Housing Health Issues

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are taking this issue very seriously. Mould is a very big health problem that we see and it does have direct effects. I know this is more than just a housing problem; it's also a health problem. We have hired an environmental company to look at the mould problem in the Fort Liard area and also look at a way that we can deal with that problem. We have put forward a report that we are looking at dealing with this problem with regard to Fort Liard. There is presently someone who has been hired who is doing a thorough review by way of a report to look at those units in Fort Liard and come forward with recommendations on how we're going to replace that. We're looking at coming forward during the March budget to ensure money is in the budget to deal with this problem next year. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 316-15(3): Housing Health Issues

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just wondering if the Minister can assure at least the residents of Fort Liard that, yes, we are addressing the problem. I think environmental inspection is key, as well as -- I don't know if I have the right Minister for this -- a lot of it is health. It's becoming more and more of a health issue, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Minister can speak to whether that concern will be addressed, as well; like immediately. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 316-15(3): Housing Health Issues

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have raised this with my colleagues on this side of the House to make them aware that the mould problem is a health problem and I think with the dollars that we do get from Ottawa with regard to health, this has to be considered as a health issue where it's having an effect on people's breathing problems, asthma and also probably with regard to the whole family. When you have overcrowding and mould, that's a bad mix. I think it is definitely a housing problem. Also we have to work with the other colleagues on this side, especially the Minister of Health and Social Services. I have spoken with him on this and we are working in conjunction to ensure that we deal with this problem as a health issue, as well.

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

Supplementary To Question 316-15(3): Housing Health Issues

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess another key component of constructing the houses is that there have to be adequate inspectors there, and that's one of the things that occurred out of Fort Liard this summer. Repairs were happening, construction was

happening, but the constituents are telling me they don't see adequate inspectors coming to look at these homes to assure us and give us the confidence that the homes are being constructed and renovated to an acceptable standard. Just the presence of those inspectors alone will help the constituents there, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform me of the inspection program that goes along with house construction?

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

Further Return To Question 316-15(3): Housing Health Issues

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Well, like I said, Mr. Speaker, we have hired someone to look at this problem and also make recommendations back to us. One of the problems that has been pinpointed to us is the flood that happened in Fort Liard a number of years ago, during which these units were flooded. Because of that, the basements underneath these units were flooded with water, which got into the structure and that is one of the things we're focusing on. I know I heard a couple of other concerns about people's basements flooding and whatnot. Again, moisture can cause mould. I think it's important to try to avoid those things in our construction habits. We are looking at bringing forward and reviewing a report from the consultant and making sure that we find recommendations to go forward on resolving this problem. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 316-15(3): Housing Health Issues

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just wondering if the Minister can, for the record, tell me when the report will be completed. He mentioned it a couple of times during this question period, so I'll be looking for an affirmed date of completion of that report and perhaps some costs associated with it. That would be of particular interest to myself and to the communities. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 316-15(3): Housing Health Issues

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I hope to have the report concluded before we go to Fort Liard. We are scheduled to go to Fort Liard the 4th and 5th of November. So at that time when we have our public meeting, we should be able to inform the residents in Fort Liard exactly how we're going to deal with this problem and, at that time, present them with aspects of that report. So we should have that report and have a briefing for the community at that public meeting. Thank you.

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

Question 317-15(3): Housing Policy For Disabled Persons

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is in line with all the other Members here on theme day for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I'm looking for a commitment from this Minister. Will this Minister develop a policy that

will meet the existing standards based on accessible living for people with disabilities in social housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 317-15(3): Housing Policy For Disabled Persons

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know the Member raised this issue in the House before. We have completed our phase two report with regard to our needs survey. On page 7 of that report, it identifies that we do have 194 dwellings which have been modified for people with disabilities. So we do have that stock in house. Also, I'd just like to inform the Member that we also have programs for people in the private sector who can apply for a grant of up to \$25,000 to renovate their units to make them accessible for people with disabilities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 317-15(3): Housing Policy For Disabled Persons

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the Minister is saying about 194 people in our housing. Mr. Speaker, what I'm looking for is a firm commitment on national guidelines, something that is clear cut. Can the Minister commit today that his department will create a policy, be it a booklet or whatever, on national standards and this can be applied to all of our social housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 317-15(3): Housing Policy For Disabled Persons

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, at this time I can't commit to that because I'm not aware of exactly what standard you're talking about. I don't believe that we do have programs and services to assist people with disabilities and ensure that we make them one of our high priorities when they come forward to access public housing. I cannot commit for the private sector or commit for any other agency that's out there until we know exactly what the cost is of implementing this policy. I'm not aware of that policy, so I'll have to look into it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 317-15(3): Housing Policy For Disabled Persons

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will now be looking for the Minister to go over the top from overwhelming me to overwhelming me. Will the Minister commit that by the new year he will investigate and have a report back on developing a policy based on national standards for our social housing for people with disabilities in regard to accessibility issues? Will he commit to having that done by the new year so we have something once he's had a chance to investigate it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 317-15(3): Housing Policy For Disabled Persons

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Again, Mr. Speaker, that request is a handful in regard to being able to accomplish all those goals in the short time that you are requesting, but I think it is something that I will definitely promise the Member that I will look into and see exactly where we are with a policy for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and exactly what the cost to implement such a policy would be.

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

Supplementary To Question 317-15(3): Housing Policy For Disabled Persons

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll say thank you, Mr. Minister, for that commitment. Mr. Speaker, I'll ask for one more commitment from the Minister responsible for Housing in which he did refer to private industry being able to access a pot of funds or a pot of money in order to allow social housing to happen in private buildings. Will he commit to investigate the possibility of applying that policy to anyone who accesses this funding to have those folks in their buildings? Will he commit to seeing that that policy can apply to them as well as in the private industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 317-15(3): Housing Policy For Disabled Persons

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to the Member's question, I do not know. We can't dictate to the private sector how they run their business. Again, we are a segment of the corporation in the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide social housing in the Northwest Territories, but when you start dictating to the private sector in regard to how they can run their business, we have to ensure that we are following national building guidelines by ensuring that they are able to operate their business without us totally interfering in how they do that. So, again, I will look into it and report back to the Member. Thank you.

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

Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I understand that in the year 2038 the federal government is hoping to get out of the housing business. In saying that, Mr. Speaker, the recent surveys done by the Housing Corporation indicate that 35 percent of houses in the Sahtu are in core need. Can the Minister tell the House and tell the people in the Sahtu what plans are in place to decrease the number from 35 to an acceptable number that would be sufficient to the Sahtu people? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe there are several ways that we can work with the communities and with the Sahtu region. That's to devolve more authority to those communities through universal partnership agreements and also ensuring that the needs surveys that we develop are able to meet the most needs of the communities that are out there. Definitely the Sahtu is one of them. I think once we put forward our business plans for next year, we will be focusing on those needs surveys to ensure that we are able to accommodate the communities that are in most critical need. So we are working with communities and also developing our business plans coming forward next year.

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

Supplementary To Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I want to ask request the Minister what type of plans does his department have in terms of working with the federal government to ensure that maybe the federal government does need to phase out the funding for housing here, similar to what the government has looked at with the First Ministers' health funding or the equalization payments? Surely this government can question the federal government in terms of looking at housing as a crucial and essential need for the Northwest Territories.

AN HON. MEMBER: Surely, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that we continue the dialogue from the first meeting held with the federal Minister. All the issues we raise here in the House he is aware of. He comes from a part of northern Ontario where they have a lot of housing issues; I think also because of being a former co-chair of the Liberal Caucus committee who looked at housing back in the '70s, along with the chair at the time who was Mr. Paul Martin. So because Paul Martin is now the Prime Minister of Canada and Mr. Fontana is now the Minister of Housing, hopefully the recommendations they put forward in that report, which talks about social housing programs, they'll be open to bringing forward. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the previous Minister of the Housing Corporation did a tour of the Sahtu region, and one of the issues that came up for the people was the block housing and the ways that we could cut down costs. But it also makes sense to use

our own resources and also use the opportunity to provide training for our people. Would the Minister commit to this House and to the people of the Sahtu that the previous commitments made by the Minister in terms of providing a package for log housing that could be suitable and affordable for people in the Sahtu region? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now there is a program that we offer through our housing programs. It's basically put forward for the individual or the client to go out of their way to get their logs, bring their logs into the community, get it on the site, and then the government will allow them the resources to purchase the material to construct the unit. But it is up to the individual to have sweat equity going into this program. So they have to go out of their way to ensure they get the logs, they peel them, they bring them onto the site, and then the government will implement that program. So there is a program to do that already in place. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I want to take this a little step further. Would the Minister work with the Minister of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in devising a training program that would take out some of the young people to do a training program in terms of log building, putting a house together that would cut down costs and look at that as being a pilot project in the Sahtu region? So then we could have some long-term viability for the people in our region and the rest of the communities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, as the Minister, am definitely open to proposals from any community if there are projects out there that they feel would really make a difference to the housing challenges they face in the communities. I'm willing to look at that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. The people in the Sahtu would be very happy to do a proposal. Would the Minister commit to a meeting with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment within this fiscal year to put out a proposal that would be beneficial to our people? We need to hear from the government saying this is what we can do, this is the amount of dollars that we commit to this

pilot project. Would the Minister give a commitment? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 318-15(3): Reduction Of Housing Funding

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Definitely I can't commit for the Minister of Education, but I definitely will suggest that we sit down and talk about this. He's heard the questions, so hopefully we can consider finding ways to implement such a program. Thank you.

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

Question 319-15(3): YACCS Proposal For Facility Use

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Services and it's further to my Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is very clear that the YACCS, which stands for Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors, have done all the work. They have the vision in place, they have plans in place, they have a plan for the Aven Manor, they have a plan for Aven seniors' independent courts and their plan is like a domino or puzzle. One has to work in order for the rest of the pieces to fit, and they have a long-term plan to have seniors' housing in the form of condominiums in the land that they have available in the same area of the manor and the courts. But their plan includes a dementia facility so that the people who need to go in there can do that, and so they can move on to the condominium idea. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister is well aware of this proposal, and last we heard from him he had provided a deposit or down payment or initial money for them to look into this. Now they have submitted a full proposal and I would like to know where the Minister stands on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 319-15(3): YACCS Proposal For Facility Use

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I met a number of months ago now with YACCS and I met with the Social Programs committee on this issue. I believe that I have also written to the Yellowknife MLAs who are supporting this project. Basically what is currently happening is we are in the process of completing a report that's due in November. It's going to look at facility usage across the Northwest Territories in terms of acute care beds and long-term care beds and the issue of dementia and how it impacts not only Yellowknife, but Hay River, Inuvik, Fort Smith and Simpson, all the places that have facilities. As I indicated to the executive of YACCS, the Yellowknife proposal that has been done is going to be part of those deliberations. That will be part of the report that I will be bringing back to Cabinet and to the Social Programs committee that will lay out how we are going to reprofile some of the resources as they relate to a surplus of acute care beds, as well as how we are proposing to move ahead to deal with the issue of dementia and dealing with the cognitively

impaired across the Northwest Territories, including Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 319-15(3): YACCS Proposal For Facility Use

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been in the books for a very long time and I guess if the study is going to be done at the end of November, we have to wait for this. But I'm concerned that the Minister has not indicated enough commitment to seeing the results of the study being implemented. Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister is well aware that YACCS is not looking for capital funding, it's not looking for a handout, it's only looking for the commitment from the government to pay for the operating costs that the government would otherwise have to do anyway. So would the Minister, if there is a need found in this study, commit to providing operating funds to YACCS? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 319-15(3): YACCS Proposal For Facility Use

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out that the government has been very committed to working with YACCS. The Department of Health and Social Services has given them money to do their studies. As a government we've turned over land worth \$1.6 million to them to assist in their planning, and at this point it's part of the mix when it comes to the final report that's going to be coming out in November. There is a lot of money at stake that's being requested. The YACCS facility is a multi-million dollar proposal with the territorial government being the sole funding agency that would pay the capital costs through the O and M budget, basically paying the lease costs or the mortgage costs through monthly payments. So the reality is we are going to be the sole funding agent. There is money on the table. We also have to factor in other needs in Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik, Fort Simpson as well as Yellowknife, and we have to come up with a plan that's comprehensive for all territorial residents and we will come forward with that. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister is only partially correct. He is correct and I give him credit and I give the government credit in saying that the YK Health and Department of Health and Social Services has given extra money to Aven Manor so that they could take care of seniors with dementia, which I would argue is their job, but thank you very much for giving that money.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would also say that YACCS is not looking for capital funding. YACCS is proposing that they will go out to the private market to borrow the money to build this facility, as long as the government commits to giving them money to take care of these seniors. I think that's a different thing, Mr. Speaker. These seniors with dementia are in private homes...

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question, Ms. Lee?

Supplementary To Question 319-15(3): YACCS Proposal For Facility Use

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if he could give support in principle that if the need is found in this study, that he would look positively at giving operational funding that he would have to spend as the Minister of Health anyway for seniors. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

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

Further Return To Question 319-15(3): YACCS Proposal For Facility Use

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reality is at the end of the day that the territorial government will be the sole funding agent for any development that goes on with dementia units, including the Yellowknife one. The reality is what they are looking at is a different variation, but the fundamental dollar requests come to the department, come to the government, and we are going to guarantee and through the O and M costs pay the mortgage costs for whatever construction takes place. So the reality is we're going to work with YACCS. It's going to be in the plan, but when the YACCS borrow the money what we are doing is guaranteeing repayment and we're going to give them the repayments through the O and M. So it's clear.

We may not call it capital, but it's being funded through the territorial government and I have to make a case to my colleagues and this Legislature that that project, along with many others, deserves to be given consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final and third supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 319-15(3): YACCS Proposal For Facility Use

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say I don't really like the general approach of all the Ministers. For some reason doing something for Yellowknife takes away from doing things for other communities, and I don't accept that. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the government has already set a precedent. We're building a bridge, the government is funding it, but there are other people who are benefiting from it and the government is bridging with a private partner. Why can we not do that for seniors?

MR. SPEAKER: I think that's a question, Ms. Lee. I'll let the Minister answer that.

Further Return To Question 319-15(3): YACCS Proposal For Facility Use

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the bridge it is my understanding it is a P3 project that's going to generate revenue through tolls. With this facility we are talking about building a facility that's going to address a very specific need. It's not a revenue-generating item. It's one of providing a needed service not only in Yellowknife, but across the Northwest Territories. I'd like to remind the Member that, yes, she speaks as a Member for Yellowknife, but we are a government for all people of the

Northwest Territories and it's an issue that is a problem across the Northwest Territories and we have to have a territorial plan. Thank you.

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

Question 320-15(3): Social Housing Resources

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I outlined the mandate of the NWT Housing Corporation. I was just wondering if the Minister could, just in rough percentages, tell us how much of the mandate in the resources and energy of this corporation is devoted to social housing needs versus these other things such as economic development initiatives, research, training, these other things. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 320-15(3): Social Housing Resources

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we received roughly \$35 million from CMHC for social housing. As was mentioned in the House, those dollars are declining over the next 30 years. We are seeing it basically decline to zero. So because of that, we are having to refocus our efforts through looking at our mandate, but also instituting our business plans and working with communities through partnership agreements. I believe at the end of the day the people that make the difference are people in communities at the frontline through the local housing authorities, those organizations to devolve these authorities from the pot to ensure that those program responsibilities will be delivered to the client, which in most cases are in the communities. So we are looking at changing the mandate, coming forward with a 10-year plan and also realizing we have a major decline in cash flow, especially from the federal government through the CMHC funding, which again is \$35 million which will decline over the next number of years.

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

Supplementary To Question 320-15(3): Social Housing Resources

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister know just approximately a ballpark figure as to what is spent by the NWT Housing Corporation on administrative overhead of headquarters? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 320-15(3): Social Housing Resources

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information presently at hand. I believe it is in the audit report that I tabled in the House

earlier this week, but I will definitely get that information for the Member.

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

Supplementary To Question 320-15(3): Social Housing Resources

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reason why I ask about how the mandate is divided and how much is spent on administrative overhead versus program delivery is because I believe that there are a lot of things that could be done that may seem smaller scale than building a lot of new housing units. I noticed, since I travel in the communities, that there are a lot of boarded up, vacant housing units in all of our communities, particularly in the smaller communities. I would like to know if the Minister has an idea of what kind of inventory of vacant units the NWT Housing Corporation has across the North. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 320-15(3): Social Housing Resources

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Again, Mr. Speaker, because we do have units that we maintain every other year, we put aside 10 to 12 units in a community so that we can renovate them over a period of time. We move our clients to different units. Because of the number of turnover that we have because of our maintenance programs, that number is inconsistent, so I can't give the Member that information because it is a moving number. We do take units off of our system in order to meet our maintenance program. So because of that, those vacancies may not be...Again, I will make an attempt to get that information to the Member.

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

Supplementary To Question 320-15(3): Social Housing Resources

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am thinking about more units I have seen in the communities that are boarded up. They look like no one has lived in them for quite some time, but they still may have some salvage value. The NWT Housing Corporation, if in fact they own them, might do well to turn those over to band councils, community corporations, a private developer, somebody who would want to put these units back into circulation in the communities so that there are more housing options available to those residents. Would the Minister commit to undertake an inventory of units that are not vacant because of maintenance, but are vacant because, essentially, they are out of service and abandoned? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 320-15(3): Social Housing Resources

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of doing that because we realize that we have to start identifying units that we have to dispose of, to have

them replaced with other units. Right now, the way the local housing authorities receive the money, it is based on O and M dollars for their unit. They don't get any new O and M dollars for replacing those units until they actually physically replace those units. So if you are carrying those units, you don't get extra dollars for those new units until you replace that unit. Because of that, it is something that we are looking at. We have now hired a lands person to identify what lands we have in communities, where our units are, which units are getting disposed of, so we know exactly what our total inventory is. We are doing that at the present time. Again, I will commit to the Member that once we have more of that detail in place, we are willing to share that with the Members. Thank you.

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

Question 321-15(3): Process To Address Land Shortage In Yellowknife

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod. I am just wondering what steps the government is currently taking to address the chronic lack of available land for development in the city of Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 321-15(3): Process To Address Land Shortage In Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we have a number of different processes across the NWT for providing additional land to the towns and cities. In the case of Yellowknife, we have not been aware that there has been an application filed for additional land outside of the town boundaries. We have been discussing the issue of some lands reverted back from the mines. We have included the Akaitcho Territory First Nations and the city. We have been having a number of meetings to come to some kind of a long-term plan of how we would arrange for land and also for the First Nations to bring their interests forward and also the city's, to be able to develop a long-term plan. Right now, we are developing a process. We haven't finalized an agreement as to how it is going to unfold at this point. We are still in discussions. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 321-15(3): Process To Address Land Shortage In Yellowknife

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your response. The Minister spoke of a process that has been started by his department working with both the aboriginal government, the Akaitcho, and the City of Yellowknife. He says that work has begun on this agreement to set aside some land for development and to try to work together and cooperate on a long-term plan for the city of Yellowknife. I am just wondering when we might expect some dates or some of this work to be concluded and for the City of Yellowknife to have some surety on available land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 321-15(3): Process To Address Land Shortage In Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Yellowknife area, we, as a department, have to follow a process that is in place, set up, and agreed upon by the Akaitcho Territory and this government through Aboriginal Affairs that spells out an interim measures agreement that we, as MACA, have to follow. In this case, we have had discussions with the Akaitcho First Nations and the city, and we have tentatively agreed that we would work towards developing a process where we wouldn't run into a roadblock where the city is interested in some lands and the First Nations are also interested, or any of those types of situations. So we are working on a process right now and we are working trying to follow the Interim Measures Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 321-15(3): Process To Address Land Shortage In Yellowknife

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would agree with the Minister that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs does have a role to play in brokering this arrangement between the aboriginal governments and the City of Yellowknife. I would just like to ask the Minister, is this process going to take two, three, four, or five years? When is it going to be concluded? When you enter into a process like this, it can take some time to get to the end of it. I would like to ask the Minister when that will be concluded. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 321-15(3): Process To Address Land Shortage In Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we don't have an absolute process. We don't have an agreement signed yet as to how all of this is going to unfold. I have asked both the city and the Akaitcho to try to resolve it in one year. We are trying to set a deadline of one year so that we can have a clear process that everybody will be able to understand and follow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 322-15(3): Development Of Multiyear Program For Housing Repairs

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon in my Member's statement I made a suggestion in regards to housing repairs for small communities. As we all know, Mr. Speaker, each community is limited for dollars to repair houses. I would like to ask the Minister if he would be willing to develop a multiyear program, but subject to our yearly budget approval. Would he be willing to look at that type of program? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 322-15(3): Development Of Multiyear Program For Housing Repairs

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are definitely willing to look at that, but just ensuring that the budget has to be passed through this House, so with that being something that we would look at because I believe we do have to look at housing by way of a long-term planning process. Hopefully, with the 10-year plan we develop that to ensure that we follow what we have in our need surveys and implement that into our 10-year business plan so that people can realize that we are confronting these problems over a 10-year period so people can see how we are fixing these problems and not having projects on the book one year and finding out that the money was spent somewhere else so it is consistent. So we are definitely willing to look at that by coming forward and ensuring that the dollars addressed in the 10-year plan are going to be in place for 10 years, with the approval of the House.

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

Supplementary To Question 322-15(3): Development Of Multiyear Program For Housing Repairs

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister agree with me that if we go with this route of a multiyear home repair program, that, because of our limited funding at the community level for home repair, a larger number of people would be happy with the corporation with the initiative of at least trying to get help, rather than doing it the way we are doing it now where only a number of people are being helped. Would he not agree that this type of program would benefit the corporation? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 322-15(3): Development Of Multiyear Program For Housing Repairs

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we are doing is working closer with the local housing authorities. We are working with the band corporations through universal partnership agreements to implement these programs closer to the communities so they don't have to apply out of Yellowknife, out of Inuvik, or out of the regional centres. They can go directly to the local housing authority and let them make the final decision at the community level, and also ensure that the resources are there so that those dollars are expended for the programs we deliver. We are working with communities to give them a better opportunity in the decision-making process and work closer to the communities in the way it is set up right now. Hopefully by streamlining the process and making it more accessible, it will improve the clients in communities access to these programs. I believe that is one of the problems we are facing now, but we are working on improving it.

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

Supplementary To Question 322-15(3): Development Of Multiyear Program For Housing Repairs

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am getting mixed messages. On one hand I am asking if we can develop this type of multiyear program particularly for the small communities, because they are very limited in their home repair programs for each community. Just from the last comment of the Minister, he implies that there are provisions currently within the existing program, but my understanding is that there aren't any right now. That is why I am asking the Minister if he can develop this type of multiyear program for clients that want to get the home repairs done. The reason being, Mr. Speaker, is that because of the limited number of funding that we have for each community, only a handful of people are getting their homes repaired. By having a multiyear program, we would increase the number of people to be helped. Those individual clients would commend the Minister if he does have this type of program, because a larger number will be helped rather than only a handful. Would the Minister commit to developing this type of program? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 322-15(3): Development Of Multiyear Program For Housing Repairs

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry for confusing the Member, but what we are presently doing now, because we are looking at the mandate of the corporation, we are looking at our programs and services. One of the things we are doing is we are trying to ensure...Right now the programs we have are application-based. It is based on the number of applications that you'd get. Out of that, we determine allocation. So what we are trying to do is work with communities to determine how many clients they have in their homes that need these programs, and work with those people at the community level to implement those programs through the Universal Partnership Agreement. The Universal Partnership Agreement is something new, but the whole idea, at the end of the day, is to empower communities to let them take on more responsibility for housing, which doesn't just include managing our units, it also includes delivering programs by way of our programs that we deliver right now at headquarters. That is where we are working at and where we are going to improve programs and services to communities, and the way the process works right now is application-based. It goes to the regional offices, then the regional office determines allocation. Then they go back to the communities. Then they go back to the regional office. So we are trying to cut down that long, drawn-out process and simplifying it to make it easier for communities. That is the direction we are going.

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

Supplementary To Question 322-15(3): Development Of Multiyear Program For Housing Repairs

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the process that is currently in place, but that is not the point I am trying to make to the Minister. I don't think the Minister is getting my point. This is specifically in regards to people that want to get their homes repaired. The point I am trying to make, Mr. Speaker, is we don't have a program in place that is multiyear because of our limited

number of funding at the community level. It is application-based, as the Minister indicates, but it is based on the assessment that has been undertaken at the individual client's house. It could be, in some cases, in the hundreds of thousands dollars for repair needs. What I am suggesting to the Minister is, because of our limited number of funds, can his department look at developing this multiyear program so that we can assess a larger number of clients at the community level? For instance, this individual with a \$100,000 repair that is required doesn't have to take place in one year. It could be done over two years. That way, you are spreading the dollars to more clients. So that is my suggestion to the Minister. Would the Minister try to take a look at developing this type of program? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 322-15(3): Development Of Multiyear Program For Housing Repairs

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I would just like to reference my earlier comment. With our giving more authority to communities, that means if what they want is co-op funding arrangements with those local authorities to deliver programs by way of helping more of their clients, that is something that we are willing to look at. We are working towards empowering communities, especially the local housing authorities, to give them more responsibilities and give them more resources so they can do the jobs that they are there for. You don't just set them up to manage something that they don't have the resources to carry out. I would like to just assure the Member that I will bring forward your concern and see if that is a way that we can develop it. Right now, we are looking at empowering communities by way of giving them authority to deliver programs and services in the communities and have them delivered at the regional level. Thank you.

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

Question 323-15(3): Recruitment Of Health Care Professionals

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today because I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Yesterday I talked about my concerns about the shortage of doctors in emergency rooms and in clinics. Mr. Speaker, a national physician survey conducted by the College of Family Physicians in Canada, the Canadian Medical Association, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons basically said there was an alarming state in regards to doctor supply. In brief, there were two serious observations: 21,000 doctors were surveyed, and 60 percent of them are scaling back their services. It said 3,800 are expected to retire within two years. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Health and Social Services is what is the NWT doing now to make the Northwest Territories a place of first choice for the doctors to come and work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 323-15(3): Recruitment Of Health Care Professionals

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have just in the last number of months, in our first year, signed a four-year agreement with the Medical Association of the Northwest Territories, that gives the doctors a very competitive pay and benefits package. We have many perks in there that make it very competitive. The pay is good. There are lots of good benefits. As well, we are also funding and helping to assist some northern students who are currently in medical school, who will hopefully be graduating in a number of years. I think there are four currently in school that are going to be doctors eventually. Plus, we are continuing to recruit. We have been quite successful. Overall, the number of vacancies for doctors is quite low. So we have had some success in terms of the negotiating agreements, the vacancy rates and the fact that we are supporting northern students and encouraging more and more of them to go into med school, if they so choose. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 323-15(3): Recruitment Of Health Care Professionals

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this survey noted that 26 percent of the doctors are scaling back their service in the next few years. Mr. Speaker, only four percent are looking at increasing the service. Historically doctors have been known to work 70 and 80 hours per week, whereas now they are working barely 50. Mr. Speaker, what is the department doing? I would like to hear a concrete plan of what they are doing as an action plan to bring new doctors to the Northwest Territories, recognizing that 60 percent are scaling back and 3,800 are potentially retiring within two years across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 323-15(3): Recruitment Of Health Care Professionals

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday in this House, there was about \$8.4 million put into hiring doctors and nurses and midwives late in the 14th Assembly. I also submit that the agreement that we've reached with the Medical Association factors in the quality of life issues, referenced by my colleague, and that is an issue of concern for the doctors. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 323-15(3): Recruitment Of Health Care Professionals

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when does that agreement that the honourable Minister speaks about expire, and does that apply just to surgeons or does that apply to all general practitioners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 323-15(3): Recruitment Of Health Care Professionals

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that applies to both general practitioners and specialists. It's a four-year agreement that will expire, I believe, in 2007 or 2008. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 323-15(3): Recruitment Of Health Care Professionals

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, speaking from a territorial perspective now, what are we doing about the small communities that suffered these services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 323-15(3): Recruitment Of Health Care Professionals

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, out of the \$8.4 million, we put in funding for additional doctors in the Deh Cho, into the Sahtu and for the Inuvik region, as well. So we've added doctors, we are looking at adding nurse practitioners, we are trying to come up with a special program to better mentor community health nurses so that we can get many of the recent graduates qualified as soon as possible and agree to work in the communities. So we are very aware and very concerned about the service in the regions and in the communities, and these are some of the things we are doing. Thank you.

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

Question 324-15(3): Northern Housing Construction

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a few more questions to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, within the planning and design function of the Housing Corporation for the construction of northern housing units, I was wondering what kind of resources are accessed in order to do that kind of planning. I have noted that the houses that are constructed with Housing Corporation dollars in the communities often don't seem to be very sensitive to the lifestyle and culture of the people who live in them. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 324-15(3): Northern Housing Construction

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to those units that do go in, I've heard the concern from communities with regard to how we construct these units. Most of them have been pre-designed, or we've implemented designs that have been

constructed in other areas. Again the whole idea is that we have to realize that because in the North a lot of our transportation is done by roads or by barges, through the winter road systems we have to be able to package these things in such a way that most of them have been designed through the programs we do deliver by way of homeownership and those other programs. What we are doing now is giving more responsibility to the client to pick out what unit they want, rather than in the past when people were given two or three options and that was it.

I think that we do have to get away from the idea that these designs are not uniquely designed for the North and were brought from somewhere else and implemented. If you look at CMHC programs across Canada, it seems like all the units were consistent throughout. So we are looking at that, we are trying to give more of that decision to the local community and also the person purchasing the unit to make the decision for themselves on what type of unit they want to live in. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Time for oral questions has expired, however, I will allow you a supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 324-15(3): Northern Housing Construction

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I talk about housing, that is sensitive to the types of activities that people undertake. I know for awhile there was a wholesale move to have people have these high-energy-efficient furnaces that ran on fuel, and no wood stoves. That, to me, doesn't make sense. Another thing is the interior wall finishes. When you have access to wood, why would you pick a very hard to repair, unforgiving finish like drywall in houses? It doesn't stand up that well, maybe it has some fire retardant attributes, but these are the kinds of things. Does the corporation seek the input of communities, even for the social housing units, quite apart from the homeownership but on the social housing units, does it seek input from people about the kinds of things they would like to have in their houses as opposed to these very white and sterile and modern materials? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 324-15(3): Northern Housing Construction

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the Member is raising these questions, because I believe as a corporation we have the opportunity to look into it now. We are reviewing our mandate, we are going to look at the programs and services we do deliver. More importantly, we have to be more economically-efficient in regards to how these units operate and bring down the cost of operating these units by endorsing more environmentally-friendly means of generating energy and also being able to use less energy than we are using right now.

One of the biggest cost drivers to the corporation is the utility costs. Almost 50 percent of the dollars that go to the local housing authorities are spent on utilities. That's an area I believe we have to really focus on and, again, it's there in regards to the programs and services we deliver, through our housing programs that we have.

Again the Member is right; it seems like the programs we have for independent housing gives you a unit with an oil stove, but they don't realize someone should have had the choice between an oil stove or a wood stove or some sort of airtight heater. But they give you what they give you and in most cases, like you say, it breaks down. Where do you go? You can't get a part. So again with this review and also reviewing our mandate, I think now we are open to have input from communities, so we are open to concerns from other people in the Northwest Territories.

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

Supplementary To Question 324-15(3): Northern Housing Construction

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really pleased to hear that the Minister is cognizant of these issues because, of course, it's only good stewardship to build units that consume less utilities and are low maintenance wherever possible. It is just that sometimes in the past, some of the initiatives that have been undertaken have not been good. The airtight thing, for example, is exactly why we have houses full of mould, because they try to make them so airtight to keep the utility cost down...

AN HON. MEMBER: Mould.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: So I guess I just want a commitment from the Minister that the kinds of initiatives undertaken to address these issues of maintenance cost and utilities cost will be very practical and user-friendly to the occupants of these units. There are many other examples I could give of initiatives the Housing Corporation has undertaken which just turned out to be an albatross for the people who had to actually live in those units. I don't know what my question is, but that's it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen, I didn't hear a question there. Time for oral questions has expired. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 5, Mr. Pokiak.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Up in the gallery today I have a couple of constituents; Mervin Gruben, deputy mayor of the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk.

---Applause

Beside Mr. Gruben is Charlene Elias my newly-hired constituency assistant from Tuktoyaktuk. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to recognize a local accountant, housewife and keen observer of this House, Ms. Connie Henderson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 58-15(3): GNWT Direct Appointments

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this question is to the Deputy Premier, Mr. Roland.

Would the government agree to share with Regular Members of this government positions and names of persons directly appointed to positions in the GNWT public service and to positions managed by GNWT-funded boards, agencies and corporations for which there is no public or competitive hiring process?

MR. RAMSAY: Good question.

---Applause

Written Question 59-15(3): Thebacha Campus Direct Appointments

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

How many direct appointments have been made to the Aurora College's Thebacha Campus in the past two years? Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Written Question 60-15(3): Long-Term Plans For Housing Corporation

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Honourable David Krutko, Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

1. Is there a long-term plan to address our aging populations in the regions and communities?
2. Are there plans to increase the number of independent living units that are available to elders and seniors?

Mahsi cho.

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

Written Question 61-15(3): Compensation And Rehabilitation Programs For Chronic Pain

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is to the Honourable David Krutko, Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

1. Please provide information on what steps have been taken by the WCB to accommodate and to fall in line with the findings of the Supreme Court decision, cited as Nova Scotia WCB vs Martin [2003] 2S.C.R.504, in terms of the board's policy on compensatory and rehabilitation program benefits for those NWT claimants who suffer from the disability of chronic pain.
2. Please provide answers to the following:
 - a) Are persons with chronic pain derived from a workplace accident or condition eligible for the same level and degree of benefits as those suffering from workplace injuries?
 - b) Are persons with chronic pain subject to the same administrative processes in assessing their disability and providing for compensation for that disability?
 - c) Are there any different considerations applied to this type of condition than other conditions?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 62-15(3): Housing Repair And Construction Funding

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

1. In each of the Sahtu communities, how many log homes are in need of major repairs?
2. Can the Minister provide the specific amount of dollars that it takes to build a three-bedroom stick-built unit?
3. Can the Minister provide the status in the Northwest Territories on how many "made-in-the-North" materials or supplies are used for houses from the NWT?
4. Will the Minister provide information as to how the department plans to keep or secure long-term funding in the federal government?
5. Can the Minister provide a list outlining the various programs and services available to the communities?

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Written Question 63-15(3): Rent Scale Policies And Harmonization

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

1. Does the NWT Housing Corporation have a plan to revisit the rent scale policies and develop a policy that is not geared solely on income?
2. Does the NWT Housing Corporation plan on revisiting the harmonization policy?
3. What changes to the rent scale policy is the Housing Corporation looking at and what measures will be implemented to ensure that it will be acceptable and affordable?

Thank you.

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

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 33-15(3): Northwest Territories Trapping Industry

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I'm in receipt of Return to Written Question 33-15(3) asked by Mr. Yakeleya to the Honourable Brendan Bell, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, regarding the Northwest Territories trapping industry.

Mr. Yakeleya was inquiring if the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, RWED, had answers to the following seven questions related to the Northwest Territories trapping industry. I am pleased to provide the following responses to each question.

1. How many full-time trappers are there in the Northwest Territories?

Based upon the 2003-04 trapping season, there were a total of 761 trappers who sold their fur through our program.

According to advice received from our regional offices, 221 of these trappers are considered full-time trappers who are engaged in harvesting activities over the course of a full year.

2. How many part-time trappers are in the NWT?

Using the same methodology, there are 540 part-time trappers in the NWT.

3. How many trappers are there in each of the regions?

According to our fur marketing database, the numbers of trappers selling fur in the 2003-04 trapping season by region are as follows: North Slave, 176 trappers; South Slave, 202 trappers; Deh Cho, 99 trappers; Sahtu, 88 trappers; and, Inuvik, 196 trappers; for a total of 761 trappers.

Again, I must point out that trappers who sell fur on behalf of family members, including spouses and children under the age of 18 years, are not required to divulge the names

of these individuals. Therefore, the number of trappers may not reflect the total number of individuals who are actually trapping.

4. On average, what does it cost to trap full time and part time?

There are a number of variables to consider including regional differences in costs, species being targeted and skill level of the individual trapper. We have attempted to arrive at estimates based upon best advice received from local suppliers, our regional officers and several trappers. In arriving at a capital cost estimate, we assumed that the individual needs everything brand new. We also assumed the individual needed to be fully equipped. We did not give any consideration for "used" equipment.

- The capital start-up cost for a full-time trapper is estimated to be \$17,450.
 - The capital start-up cost for a part-time trapper is estimated to be \$16,800.
 - The estimated cost of operations for a full-time trapper is \$7,500.
 - The estimated cost of operations for a part-time trapper is \$2,700.
5. What is the average income per trapper, either full time or part time?

Based upon our fur-marketing database, the average income per trapper for the 2003-04 trapping season was \$1,669. The highest income earned by a trapper was \$14,000.

6. What types of assistance are provided to trappers in the NWT?

There are three types of programs being offered for trappers:

- a) Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Marketing Services
 - provides support specifically to trappers in the form of a guaranteed advance for good quality fur;
 - provides for a fur bonus in the event the fur sells at auction for an amount equal to or greater than the advance;
 - provides for a grubstake payment of \$5 per pelt for trappers selling 20 or more pelts to a maximum of \$1,000 for 200 pelts;
 - Pays all commissions and handling charges.
- b) Community Harvesters Assistance Program (CHAP)
 - RWED offers a grant program that provides financial support to harvesters, program delivery occurs through the regional/community wildlife organizations in most regions.
- c) Western Harvesters' Assistance
 - In June 1994, the Government of the Northwest Territories approved conditional contributions to regional aboriginal organizations to assist and

promote renewable resource harvesting. Of the \$15 million originally budgeted for this program, \$11 million has been committed and/or disbursed.

7. How are trappers being compensated for "potential development" in their area of livelihood and what is the process for compensation?

This question is outside the mandate of RWED. Compensation is an issue between the developer and the trapper, as well as an area that can be covered in the benefits plan accepted by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada under the Canadian Oil and Gas Operations Act administered by the National Energy Board.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 21-15(3): Adequate, Affordable And Accessible Housing

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 29, 2004, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation identify and recommend to this House viable options to sustain our long-term public housing investment;

And further that the Government of the Northwest Territories sets as a target the reduction of core housing need in the Northwest Territories by 10 percent by the year 2007;

And furthermore that the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation work with other NWT stakeholders to develop a convincing proposal to take to the federal government for additional investments in the NWT public housing.

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

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

Motion 22-15(3): Issuance Of Special Warrants

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 29, 2004, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the government bring forward amendments to the Financial Administration Act at the next sitting of this Assembly that would place a cap on special warrants, and that would require that all Members be given reasonable advance notice of special warrants prior to their issuance.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yakeleya, could you rephrase that? You were giving unanimous consent. Could you request that again?

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I'm going to clean my glasses, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion he gave notice of earlier today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 21-15(3): Adequate, Affordable And Accessible Housing, Carried

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the 15th Legislative Assembly vision statement identifies as a goal housing that is adequate, affordable and accessible;

AND WHEREAS the 2004 housing needs survey has identified 2,260 households in the Northwest Territories that are considered to be in core need;

AND WHEREAS there are many houses in communities throughout the NWT that are boarded up, and that could potentially be brought up to standard and made habitable at a lower cost than new construction;

AND WHEREAS the policies and standards of the NWT Housing Corporation and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation fail to recognize northern traditional building practices as being acceptable according to national standards;

AND WHEREAS 14 percent of all households in the Northwest Territories have identified major problems with the physical condition of their dwellings;

AND WHEREAS there are individuals and families who can no longer access the programs and services of the NWT Housing Corporation because of previous rental and mortgage obligations to the Housing Corporation and there is a need to provide adequate shelter for these people;

AND WHEREAS the current policies on housing programs for disabled persons are uncoordinated and there is a clear need to improve the level of services available to persons with disabilities living independently;

AND WHEREAS the \$33.2 million annual contribution for social housing from the Canada Mortgage and Housing

Corporation will be reduced over the next 34 years and will disappear completely by the year 2038;

AND WHEREAS the NWT Housing Corporation Act has remained substantially unchanged since 1981;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation identify and recommend to this House viable options to sustain our long-term public housing investment;

AND FURTHER that the Government of the Northwest Territories set as a target of reduction of core housing need in the Northwest Territories by 10 percent by the year 2007;

AND FURTHERMORE that the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation work with other NWT stakeholders to develop a convincing proposal to take to the federal government for additional investments in NWT public housing.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I totally support this motion. I just want to make a couple of quick comments. First of all, I find it really heartening that we have a clause in there that points out about disabilities and independent living. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see that this government takes a strong, firm grip on the type of policy that helps enable our people in healthy living conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe housing is a critical issue out there. It's a basic need. Tom Jackson, the famous singer, once said, you know, if there's no house, life doesn't really matter. He coined it in such a silly way, but it was simple. A house is the basic need of healthy communities. Health is a basic need to have healthy families. I think he was absolutely right. I don't think he was speaking from a scientific report or anything, but I think from his heart he was totally and absolutely right.

I think it's time that our housing department creates policies. If we have agencies out there in the private industry that come forward and ask for money and want our housing department to participate in private programs and whatnot, we should be able to enforce those relationships with following our types of policies that we put forward.

Mr. Speaker, I'm in support of this. Like I said, I wouldn't be long and I'll leave it at that for now. I think it's a great motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I fully support this motion. Mr. Speaker, looking at the housing needs survey in the communities, visiting the people in the communities and looking at the conditions of housing and seeing where the federal government's obligations to our people are, in terms of giving us affordable housing in our communities and giving us places where we can stay that don't run into many problems such as our honourable Member for Nahendeh

mentioned about mould. Some of our houses in our communities are in bad shape. Hopefully, this motion will give the Minister some good support to go to the federal government and have a really good discussion with them in terms of having our funding increased. Even if this government had enough funding to increase housing, I look at this report, Mr. Speaker, and there are some people who don't have running water in our communities. In this day and age, that's a crying shame, as I've always said. In this day and age there are 240 people that don't have running water. That's what we have to do to make a difference in their lives in the community. That's what we have to do.

There are some people that don't even have indoor sinks and basements at home, let alone indoor toilets that we take for granted. This is why, Mr. Speaker, I fully support this motion that gives some ammunition for the Minister and gets what we have to do to make sure that we make a difference in our people's lives. Tell our people tomorrow who don't have running water what we have done for them. We talk about other issues. People across the Northwest Territories who don't have baths or showers; that's 172 people. There are no kitchen sinks for 156 people. There are a lot of numbers here. There are 1,728 people who need major repairs on their houses. Winter's coming.

AN HON. MEMBER: It's here.

MR. YAKELEYA: Winter's coming. This is fall right now. Winter's coming. Wait until it gets really cold, minus 50 and 60; that's winter. These people need major repairs in their homes and yet we can't do it. That's why I support this motion. I support the Minister going down and getting a good deal from our federal government. We've done it with health, we've done it with equalization. We need to do it on...I'll maybe have to retract that. I'll have to wait until I hear from the Minister of Finance. However, Mr. Speaker, this is why I'm in full support of this motion and I'm passionate about this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I rise today, too, as well, to support the motion that's before us, with regard to housing. Just with that alone, that's one of our basic core needs: food, shelter and clothing. That's fundamental to any existence anywhere in this world. I just want to speak to the fact that, upon being elected...It has almost been a year now and people warned me, they told me, they said, Kevin, the single most common concern that's going to come before you, especially for Nahendeh, is housing. And it's true. Over the course of the year, I can say that at least 50 percent of the concerns I've been dealing with have been housing; not only for the constituents, but for the housing staff in Fort Simpson, as well. They are doing the best they can, but they are lacking the resources with which to handle this huge problem that's overwhelming in my riding of Nahendeh.

Basically, the constituents at the basic people level are telling me, there's one word that they use in Slavey called "nahetsandile" and that always strikes a cord to me, Mr. Speaker, because what it means is that nobody's caring or taking care of us. I want to tell them today that I care and I want our government to care.

A motion like this kind of does that, I believe. I certainly believe. What it does is bring to the highlight that yes, it's very important to our government and I just don't want it to be a spoken kind of caring, Mr. Speaker, because the last three or four years, our government has steadily been decreasing the budget. The budget for the Housing Corporation has been steadily declining and those kinds of actions don't show the people or give confidence to the people of our North that it is high on our agenda.

I'd like us to review that and say look, it's very important to us that we support our people and their needs and one of the ways of doing that is to review the way we're making housing a priority. I know it means spending more money, especially in my riding alone, just to address the current needs to update, to bring current the homes that are there, especially to national standards. I know it's not there yet because of the mould problems that exist there. That alone is an indication that the houses have been poorly constructed and need attention today.

One other thing I want to speak to is the Housing Corporation Act was created in 1981 and that's very old. I believe that it needs addressing. We have to look at some other comparable systems in other jurisdictions like in the Yukon. They have an appeal system that's independent and that people enjoy because the way it is set up now, Mr. Speaker, is that when somebody has an issue and they want to appeal a certain decision by the Housing Corporation, they are asked to go back and see people that said no. So what hope is there of having their decision overturned at all? So I believe that, yes, we have an old system here and it has to be revitalized and it has to be more user-friendly to the people and constituents that are out there, Mr. Speaker. Just with that, I would like to thank my honourable colleagues for taking the time to listen to me and I'll be supporting this motion. Thank you very much.

---Applause

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking in support of the motion and I would look at the three tasks or the demands that we are putting forward in this motion, Mr. Speaker, as the areas that I would like to address. I think my statement reflected my deep concern for the first requirement, Mr. Speaker, and that is that we take on a much more urgent basis the sunset of the funding program that we have had in place with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation from \$33 million, Mr. Speaker, this year in long-term mortgage assistance and O and M, and we're going to see that drop, I think in the neighbourhood of about \$25 million by 2010. By 2030 it will be in the neighbourhood of, I think, about \$15 million. Then, of course, I think it will go to nothing. This is one of these sorts of quiet things that will happen in the background, Mr. Speaker. It's going to be hard for us to notice them on a year-by-year basis as we see the revenue statements coming through from the government, from the Housing Corporation. There will be a little bit every year sliding off the table from CMHC. That is why it is so critical now that we turn our attention to innovative ways to replace that.

In addition, as the Minister has indicated, he's going to be having another meeting with another housing Minister. I

think we've been doing this for a long, long time, but that has got to be on the table, as well: restoring the federal government's commitment to investing in public housing. But I think it would certainly be careless of us and naïve to expect that it's simply going to flip over overnight and we will be on the same generous program that we have been before. We're going to have to be looking for ways to be more independent, more self-sustaining in our housing financing, and I think it's going to take more than just looking for pots of money that we can dig into.

I think we need to change a lot of our thinking about conventional housing designs. My colleagues have spoken about some of those things this afternoon, I won't go into it, but our ability to think ahead, far ahead to a future that will be extremely expensive purely for energy consumption, Mr. Speaker, should be way up on our radar screen when it comes to how can we make housing not only accessible, but affordable too.

Mr. Speaker, the second demand in the motion looks at the reduction of core housing need. This is one that I think applies very much to the Housing Corporation. It also applies to a number of other agencies within our government, Mr. Speaker. Core housing is essentially a formula by which we determine a family's situation, fiscal health, other considerations, and this then triggers, through various policies, our ability to offer assistance or provide assistance to a family. The standards that we have set right now, I think as the motion indicated earlier, suggest that there are 2,260 households who are in need of core housing. The Housing Corporation in the business plan of 2003-06 -- I would say again, Mr. Speaker, that this is about an 18-month-old plan, but it's the most current one we have before the Assembly -- set a target of decreasing the percentage of families in core need from 20 percent to 19 percent. That's only a one percent reduction in the number for housing in core need. I think, Mr. Speaker, it far undershoots the need here. It is simply a one percent reduction, and it doesn't say over what period of time, by the way, only a one percent reduction that does not indicate that we have a Housing Corporation that sees the urgency and the need to really do something and make a difference out there. That is why this motion calls for a 10 percent reduction in the number of families in core housing need by 2007. We've put a time frame on there, we've put a more aggressive target. In fairness to the Housing Corporation, they are not the ones entirely responsible for this. So this is a signal to all of government to work together to help our families become healthier and better housed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the third demand here is that our corporation work with other stakeholders to develop a convincing proposal to take to the federal government for additional investment. The Minister indicated he is going to be seeing the federal Minister, I think it was next month. We hope, Mr. Speaker, that he will take this message to heart and involve other people in the Housing Corporation's plans and visions. There's a 10-year plan that we understand is in the makings. I wish we could learn more about that today or very soon, but I'm anticipating that in the near future we will, and I hope it is going to be one that will take into account the kind of thing that we're bringing forward today.

Mr. Yakeleya quoted briefly from the housing needs survey. There is valuable information in there, but we

need to broaden our horizon as a bureaucracy, as a government, as a Legislature that I think has a big social mandate and an acceptance of that mandate. We've got to be more aggressive, more forward thinking, more inclusive of other organizations and companies and communities that can help make a difference.

So those are the explanations that I would like to offer, Mr. Speaker, in support of this motion, and I look forward to a 10-year plan that the Minister has talked about. I look forward to being able to make a difference across every one of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just make a short statement in support of this motion. I would like to first of all reiterate the points that I made about the need for senior housing in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, which is very, very dire. Right now really the only independent units for seniors that are available in the city is the Aven independent courts, and that only has 24 units and it runs at full capacity all year round and it has been for the last 10 years that it's been in existence. There are some seniors' units available in Mary Murphy and Northern United Place, and some private markets funded and subsidized by the housing authorities in the city. However, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that all of them have really long line-ups and that there has to be something done for those seniors in need.

Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that the Minister and this government have to deal with the needs and pressure from everywhere. When I'm asking for attention in Yellowknife, I don't mean to do that at the exclusion of all others, but I don't appreciate it when the Minister sometimes uses that as an excuse of inaction. I will tell you that the Minister of Health and Social Services has been planning for this for at least three years and if he plans some more, there won't be any seniors left by the time he's done for him to take care of. You know you can only study something for so long. He's been planning and planning for two years that he was a Minister in the last Assembly and he has done it for the last year, and I say that's enough planning and it's time to do something and to act on it. So let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the Minister's plans after November's study and he could be assured that I will be pushing for him to act on the basis of the mountains of studies that he's said that he's done so far.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to speak briefly about the role of the Housing Corporation and its mandate to provide housing for the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I think that this motion should serve as a guide and direction and mandate for the Minister to work diligently to meet the needs of housing in the Northwest Territories. I understand that he is new to this portfolio and I am sure he's working to get briefed and trying to determine his priorities. Mr. Speaker, I have to state that he can't be, and the department and no Minister should be, trying to provide services economically and in an affordable manner by breaking their own policies. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we talked about the heated debate we went through when the government chose to waive the BIP back in March, and part of a major problem with that was the fact that the government didn't do any communication plan. It just landed on our laps at the last minute and we had to deal with that and they learned their lesson.

Yesterday I learned that the Minister reinstated the BIP, except we didn't know anything about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Lee, to the motion. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about the importance of a government department like the Housing Corporation in its effort to provide affordable housing in an efficient way, an economical way and that's...(inaudible)...but I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, and I am saying to the Minister and the entire government that they can't be trying to achieve that by breaking their own policies willingly. I think I've made my point there, Mr. Speaker.

Another point I want to make, and that's going back to the seniors' housing, the goals and objectives that the YACCS has cannot be met with only the help of the Minister of Health and Social Services. It does require the assistance and cooperation from the Housing Corporation. It requires their assistance in getting financing for their condominiums that they have planned, as well as some of the money required for the dementia facility. So I would ask the Minister to pay attention to the plan that the YACCS has. They have a very good plan and it really would be meeting the mandate and the responsibilities of the corporation to work with the YACCS to see that their plans are put in place. I think that would be my statement on this motion and I will be voting in favour of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm in support of this motion as well, and I will speak briefly to one of the points, a whereas in the motion.

And whereas there are individuals and families who can no longer access programs and services of the NWT Housing Corporation because of previous rental and mortgage obligations to the Housing Corporation and there is a need to provide adequate shelter for these people...Mr. Speaker, just because people run into difficulties with the units that they are buying or renting does not negate the fact that they are still NWT residents in need of housing support, and this is where I think the policies of the NWT Housing Corporation need to be looked at. One of the Members today asked when was the rent scale revisited; well, the rent scale was changed not that long ago and as a result of that really substantive change to the way the rent scale was set up, rather than having standard rates for rent it was all based on household income and there are few realities in the North related to the way people live that make household income a really challenging way by which to charge rent.

It has nothing to do with the unit or the size of the unit. It has to do with household income and, in fact, in the Northwest Territories it is, I think, a cultural thing and a traditional thing quite often for extended families to live in the same location. It serves some purposes. For example, sometimes there are seniors who are benefitted by having grown children live with them because of the requirement for some assistance in their living. In some cases it benefits with parenting for young adults who have children to live with grandparents in the fact that they may need to go to work at the mines and they need to have support for childcare. Just the concept of extended family

living is very common in the North, but our rent scale does nothing to recognize that. They just say household income, that's it. If you've got your son or daughter who is working and temporarily living with you, then the rent goes up and then if you don't pay, then the person whose lease the name is in will be penalized forever after as having arrears to the NWT Housing Corporation.

So there needs to be, in my opinion, more flexibility because there aren't a lot of private market options in a lot of the small communities for these people. If they are making reasonable wages and could rent something privately or buy something, I'm sure they would do it rather than pay rents to the Housing Corporation. In a lot of cases there just aren't many options. So I think we need to be very sensitive to the way that people live, traditional values and the realities of how people share accommodation in the Northwest Territories, and I don't think in the rent scale there is one ounce towards doing that. I just wanted to mention that. Housing is a very interesting topic and we could spend a lot of time talking about it, but I think this motion is good in terms of things it addresses and I look forward to seeing what the Minister will do with this department. I think he's got an open mind and some good ideas and I, so far, feel he is very receptive to working with us to improve the goals and the outcomes with the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am going to vote in favour of this motion. I just wanted to quickly go over a couple of points. The first one is we want the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation to identify and recommend viable options to sustain our long-term public housing investment. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to mention to the Minister I don't want that to come with a huge price tag attached to it. I think there have been enough studies and reports and consultation done over the years that we should be able to come to grips with some of these options without having to spend a great deal of money. I can appreciate the need that is out there. I mean, it's a tremendous need, over 2,600 units needed throughout the Northwest Territories and I can appreciate that and the Minister certainly has his hands full in trying to address this need and housing certainly is much, much needed in the regions. I would like to say I know the Minister is new in his capacity as the Minister of the Housing Corporation and I do know that he has shown the Members on this side that he does have a heart and he does have some compassion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yeah.

MR. RAMSAY: I think in his role as Minister of the Housing Corporation, that's something that he'll need and something that Regular Members do appreciate. As well, I know the president as well with the Housing Corporation is new in his role, and as Regular Members we look forward to working with the new Minister and the new president to try to address some of these serious concerns. Again, I am supporting the motion that is before us today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. I will allow Mr. Yakeleya some closing comments, if he would, as mover of the motion.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my earlier statement, I am very passionate about this issue about housing in small communities. I grew up in my grandfather's house, and my grandfather's house was taken down by the Housing Corporation who said that they would build a new building there for us. I'm still waiting for it today. In saying that, this is one of many stories that people in small communities have in terms of housing and that's why I'm quite passionate for the people in homes. Like my honourable friend mentioned to me and mentioned to the House here, that is one of the issues that the people have in the Sahtu, saying that housing was going to be a really big issue. I wasn't really sure about this until I got into the position of MLA at some community meetings with some Ministers and did some of the tours in the communities. Housing in our region is a crisis. I think that the Northwest Territories would deserve better than that. I think it's about time the federal government is taking some notice and help us out more than they are doing right now.

I want to thank the Members for who have spoken in favour of the motion and I look forward to the vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. All those in favour of the motion? All opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: 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; Minister's Statement 68-15(3), NWT Housing Corporation: From the Ground Up, Celebrating 30 Years; 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 am going to call Committee of the Whole to order. The Members are aware of the items that are before us today. What is the wish of the committee, Mr. Menicoche?

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Madam Chair, Committee of the Whole wishes to consider Bill 13, Supplementary Act, No. 2, 2004-2005, and Minister's Statement 68-15(3), the NWT Housing Corporation Minister's statement. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Is the committee agreed?

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Then we will do that after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I am going to call Committee of the Whole back to order. We are going to take up where we left off yesterday. Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005, page 19, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, airports, special warrants, \$3.4 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, \$3.4 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Could you please turn back to the schedule on page 3? Part I, vote I, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$11.201 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Part II, vote II, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$5.45 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Total supplementary appropriation, \$16.651 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Back to page 1, Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-05, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): The preamble.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'm sorry, clause 6, on the other page.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. The preamble to the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 13 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Bill 13 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, committee. What is the next item you would like to go to? I believe we have Minister's Statement 68-15(3), NWT Housing Corporation: From the Ground Up, Celebrating 30 Years. Any general comments? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, in his statement the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation made on the 30th anniversary of the NWT Housing Corporation he spoke of the significant strides the corporation has made in improving and supplying housing here in the Northwest Territories. I would say we have gone a long way in addressing the housing needs for northerners, but we have a long way to go yet before we can say we have made real progress and have met the housing needs of northerners.

Madam Chair, based on the figures contained in the 2004 housing needs survey and the fact that the federal government, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will be reducing the funding available for the delivery and construction of social housing in the Northwest Territories to zero by the year 2034, I would say that the Housing Corporation will be hard pressed to construct and maintain any new social housing here in the Northwest Territories.

We are going to be losing over \$33 million a year in funding by the year 2034. I am not sure, Madam Chair, that we will be able to replace that money.

I look at initiatives in my riding of North Slave. The six market units in Rae-Edzo are a start. There are a lot of people working at the diamond mines who can buy their own units and I see the need for the Housing Corporation to develop a program to get these people into their own houses. I am not sure that the existing programs have enough funding available for them to do anything meaningful.

Madam Chair, in my Member's statement earlier, I spoke of the need to modify the repair programs. I think we need to resolve some pride of ownership on the part of social housing clients. If the place is a dump, you are going to treat it like that and possibly do even more damage. That's just human nature. These people aren't being malicious.

Madam Chair, the corporation has to come up with a viable, realistic plan to deal with the federal funding loss and part of that plan has to be convincing the federal government to reopen the purse strings, which they aren't planning to do currently.

Madam Chair, those are my comments with regard to the Minister's statement on the 30th anniversary of the NWT Housing Corporation that was moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Any further general comments on the Minister's statement? Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to thank the Member for his comments. I believe that we do have to encourage more people, especially with our growing economy or seeing people with more dollars in their pockets with the diamond industry and oil and gas industry. I think we have to direct people who are presently in that high-income range to get out of social housing and get them into the private housing market by way of our programs. We have the EDAP program, we have the DAP program, we work with the banking industry to get these people into a mortgage so they can own their own homes and be able to access capital through a mortgage.

To date, since 1997 with the DAP program, the Housing Corporation has contributed almost \$23 million. But we were able to access grants from the banks for almost \$40 million. So we put almost \$60 million of capital into our economy and this program is there to entice those people in social housing. More importantly, the employees working with our clients in public housing educate them on what it means to be a homeowner. I think again it comes down to our relationship that we have with our tenants to offer them different options.

One of the problems we're running into is with regard to the arrears that people are carrying. Now they have a lot of dollars they didn't have before because of the system we have of collecting that rent based on the formulas we use. In some cases, that's almost 25 percent of your gross income. Again, we have to find ways of working with our LHOs to work with their clients, to work along with the ones who have high-income thresholds, to work into an EDAP program, a homeownership program and get them out of social housing so we can make those units available to social housing clients.

Again, we are working through different programs. We're looking at a program now that's a two-year, phase-in program where the client is able to pay the operational costs of those units on top of what their rent was before so they know that part of being an owner of their own unit means they will have to take on the responsibility of managing and making sure your bills are paid on time. They cover the operational costs, your power costs, your utility costs. Also they need to be able to manage their budget so they know you have so much money and so much money has to be put aside to pay for that mortgage. They need to be responsible for taking care of the utilities of that unit. We're already in the process of developing that. We are working with clients who either want to own the unit they're in or get into one of the programs I mentioned. EDAP is one of the programs where we assist you to go to the bank, get a mortgage and buy your own home, but I think we have to put more money into that.

I just want to point out to the Members that the Housing Corporation has been drastically cut since the 13th Assembly. There was a 10 percent cut across the board

there. Again we're realizing another 10 percent cut to the budget. Because of that it has had a direct effect on the operational cost of the local housing authorities to maintain what they have. They've had to cut back on a lot of the program responsibilities they had in the past. They've done away with a lot of the maintenance programs we used to have before. I think that is driving what we're seeing today with regard to our needs survey. A lot of that is because of the cuts that have taken place have had a direct effect on those local housing authorities just to maintain and upkeep the maintenance of the units.

Again, I'd just like to thank the Member for the question and I'd be happy to direct those people who are now finding themselves and getting them out of public housing, but also help them by way of our programs and services to get access to bank financing and get them into their own private units. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. With that, does the committee agree that consideration of the Minister's statements...Mr. Yakeleya, sorry, I didn't see your hand. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, in reference to honourable Minister Krutko's statement with respect to the 30 years of celebrating the Housing Corporation in the Northwest Territories, one of the questions that has often come up in our small communities, especially amongst the elders, is the promise that was made by federal government agencies in terms of housing and how they get into housing.

This is very young, in terms of the Housing Corporation being in the Northwest Territories; only 30 years. Previous to that there were other houses in the Northwest Territories that were managed by the federal government agencies, mainly Indian Affairs. Some of those houses are dear to some of the elders. Now that the Housing Corporation has 30 years of experience in the housing business in the Northwest Territories, some of those old-timers still think these houses are theirs. This is the promise they made, along the lines of an agreement similar to the treaty agreements that were negotiated in the late 1800s and Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 in 1921. Some of these elders still hold dear to their hearts the agreements that were made between the federal government and our people. I hope in the celebration we also recognize some of these old agreements that are being honoured by the Housing Corporation, Madam Chair.

The idea I want to touch upon is, in the 30 years of housing in our small communities, we have somewhat created a dependency on the GNWT in terms of being dependent on them for everything. We've gotten away from that pride of owning a home. Elders have talked about today having running water, electricity, a furnace. We've become somewhat less active in owning a home because everything is not like the old days when we had to haul water and chop wood and keep the house warm.

Right now, we have all these programs and services. On one hand we complain that we don't have enough, and on the other hand they may have spoiled us. We've created this dependency and now it's very hard to get out of it. I hope the department has some very effective methods and means to create that sense of ownership with our people; that it takes a lot of pride and ownership to own a

home. We're slowly learning that in small communities, because at one time we didn't have houses.

We were so nomadic, we just travelled from one part of the region to the next. We set up our camp and took it down and travelled. However, times have changed and I just wanted to note that when the Minister tabled his celebration for 30 years, it's very young in the Northwest Territories. A lot of things have changed since that time. Housing seems like it's being reverted to where we will have responsibility for owning our own homes. But things have changed so much that I hope there are means and mechanisms that the Housing Corporation would look at implementing into our communities.

In closing, Madam Chair, I want to say that there are a lot of good people in the communities who are working with homes and providing these services to our people, especially the local education boards. They take a lot of heat sometimes in our communities because of the decisions they make and the tough choices they have to make in terms of who gets a house and who doesn't get a house. Sometimes we're really hard on our own people. We're really hard on them in terms of the services that we provide in our own communities. Sometimes we don't quite understand or have the compassion to pat our people on the back and say they're doing a good job. We're very critical sometimes and sometimes that hurts us.

In terms of the celebration, I think you also need to congratulate all of the boards that have served in the last 30 years in our communities that have made some decisions. They're doing the best they can. That's what I want to say here. I hope that kind of recognition goes out to our people. Mahsi, Madam Chair.

---Applause

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Any further general comments? Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I know the question of the treaties has always been out there. I think one of the problems we have is that there was no written text with regard to that statement. It's always been a verbal commitment that was stated. Until someone is able to prove that was one of the obligations in the treaty...You look at the treaties and the obligations that were made by Canada in the treaties, there was nothing in writing that refers to housing. Again, it comes down to interpretation.

For me growing up in Fort McPherson, before the Housing Corporation came around, everybody was independent. Everybody owned their own homes, they went out and got their own logs, they were able to maintain their own families. They were proud people. I think because of the whole idea of making life easier and taking away that responsibility, it has put a lot of dependency on people in social housing.

I think one of the things that we can look forward to is now that the aboriginal organizations such as AFN and the Government of Canada are looking at this as one of the core problems for First Nations communities, it is now getting some national attention. I think it's important that we, as the Government of the Northwest Territories, work with First Nations communities but, more importantly, that we establish a policy across Canada to deal with on- and

off-reserve people. Right now housing is a responsibility on reserves through Indian Affairs. Housing responsibility off reserves is CMHC.

We need to improve the quality of life in communities by delivering housing programs that meet the needs of First Nations people in First Nations communities. I think it's also important that we, as a government, realize that programs and services that have devolved over the last 30 years from when we started off with HAP houses, from SHAG to Webber houses, where people went out and got their own logs for the HAP units or people bought into the different SHAG programs. These programs had to evolve over time. You hear a lot of frustration from people in communities where now they're being told they have to pay a mortgage or go out of their way to get a house, but they know someone 10 or 15 years ago who got a HAP unit for free. So because times have changed, there has been inconsistency in how programs and services have been delivered.

I believe that in these upcoming meetings with the federal Minister and our provincial counterparts, they are looking at establishing a First Nations conference with AFN and different agencies to look at First Nations housing across Canada. That includes on and off reserve. I think more importantly the statement that was made with regard to the Throne speech clearly identified aboriginal housing as one of the issues that will be dealt with.

With that, hopefully that answers the Member's question because I think it's something that we have to work out, along with Billy Erasmus who is our representative on AFN. They are looking at this, but they are also looking at a possible pilot project in the Northwest Territories for aboriginal housing for the Northwest Territories. With that, thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Any further general comments? Does the committee agree that consideration of Minister's Statement 68-15(3) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. We have a motion to report progress on the floor. It is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I'll now rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Could I please have item 20, report of Committee of the Whole? Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2004-2005, and Minister's Statement 68-15(3) and would like to report that Minister's Statement 68-15(3) is concluded and that Bill 13 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the

report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Is there a seconder to the motion? The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins. A motion is on the floor. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Thursday, October 28, 2004, 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 20-15(3), Affordable Electric Power
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
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

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

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 28, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

