



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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## **HANSARD**

**Friday, May 27, 2005**

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**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Friday, May 27, 2005****Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs. Jane Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. At this time, I would like to, on behalf of the Assembly, offer our condolences to Speaker Delorey and his family. He has travelled with his wife to Nova Scotia. His wife's sister had passed away, so they are gone to attend a funeral. I will be sitting in as the Speaker in the proceedings here until Speaker Delorey returns.

Also today I want to draw your attention to the fact that we will have simultaneous translation in the languages of Chipewyan and in Innuinaqtun. This will be rebroadcast on APTN on Monday. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 6-15(4): Update On The Council Of The Federation Panel On Fiscal Imbalance**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Madam Speaker, I would like to provide Members with an update on the establishment of the Council of the Federation Panel on Fiscal Imbalance.

Earlier today, the panel was formally announced by current chair of the Council of the Federation Premier Dalton McGuinty.

This panel is an initiative lead by all Canadian Premiers. Its purpose is to examine the vertical and horizontal fiscal balances among federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada and to make recommendations on how fiscal imbalances should be addressed.

If I may, Madam Speaker, when we speak of vertical fiscal imbalance, that refers to the gap between revenue sources and spending responsibilities of different orders of government. Horizontal imbalance, Madam Speaker, refers to the differences and abilities by provinces and territories to raise revenues to meet the needs of their citizens.

All Members are aware of the federal Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing currently underway that is considering allocating fixed amounts between provinces through the equalization formula, and between territories through territorial formula funding. For example, for 2005-06, the fixed amount for allocation between the three territories is \$2 billion.

The Council of the Federation panel is taking a broader view. Many provincial and territorial jurisdictions are running deficits while the federal government is running huge surpluses. It is the position of provinces and

territories that this situation indicates a fundamental imbalance.

The Northwest Territories provides a classic example of fiscal imbalance. The NWT has responsibilities for mitigating the impacts of development, yet does not have the associated resource revenues.

As noted in my sessional statement earlier this week, it appears the federal government is taking some steps to address this imbalance. This is the result of the continued efforts of many northerners to get our message out to the national audience. The Council of the Federation panel is another important forum northerners will have to get our message out nationally.

I am pleased to advise Members that the North will have a choice on this important panel. Mr. John Todd has been selected as one of its five members. This panel will be dealing with complex issues and all members have a great deal of technical expertise. Mr. Todd's experience as a past Minister of Finance for the Northwest Territories and his familiarity with the territorial formula financing agreement and the unique challenges associated with northern development will serve the panel well. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

**Minister's Statement 7-15(4): Get Active NWT Community Challenge**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Madam Speaker, this past March I was pleased to join with the Premier, the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to launch the Get Active NWT Community Challenge.

This campaign, which runs during April, May and June, is a friendly challenge to Northwest Territories residents to register the time they spend being physically active for a chance to win a \$5,000 grant to support their community recreation program.

We are now past the mid-way point of this campaign, and I am extremely pleased to report that more than 6,000 residents have registered for the Get Active Challenge. This represents over 14 percent of the population in the Northwest Territories who have made the commitment to be physically active.

Madam Speaker, we have observed some outstanding efforts by communities and individuals during the campaign and I would like to take a moment to recognize a few:

- Enterprise and Wrigley have each registered 100 percent of their residents;
- Fort Providence has an 86 percent participation rate; and,
- Deline and Fort Good Hope have participation rates of 68 percent and 57 percent respectively.

Individuals also reported an inspiring amount of physical activity in April:

- In Rae Edzo, students at the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School logged over an incredible 13,300 hours;
- In Wha Ti, an elder logged over 50 hours; and,
- Throughout the Northwest Territories, several individuals logged between 60 and 80 hours.

Madam Speaker, as impressive as these numbers are, we also know that there are many individuals who maintain a healthy lifestyle all year long. It is important to acknowledge community residents who maintain an active lifestyle through a traditional way of life. There are many people who hunt and fish to feed their families, or heat their homes by collecting and burning firewood. Many residents take part in community feasts and drum dances. These are all forms of physical activity and deserve recognition.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association. This organization has formally joined the Get Active NWT Community Challenge, and is promoting active living through their membership and to communities through healthy living workshops.

We value the support of non-government organizations like the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association in our goal to promote and support healthy lifestyle choices.

Madam Speaker, there are five weeks left in the Get Active Challenge. I encourage every resident of the Northwest Territories to get involved and I look forward to even greater participation when we renew the challenge in 2006. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 8-15(4): Developing A Skilled Northern Workforce**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** One of the central goals of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is the development of a skilled northern workforce. Today I would like to provide you with a picture of the work currently underway to build the NWT labour force.

Career planning begins at the elementary level in our schools. Throughout their elementary and secondary schooling, students learn about different careers. In high school, students are required to take career and technology studies courses that teach them about specific careers. As well, students must complete a career program plan. During recent years, the career planning

process has been given a greater emphasis within schools and ECE is working with education boards to encourage increased family involvement. With the variety of choices available in school courses and career options, it has become more important than ever to ensure students are assisted to develop a clear career map for their future, and that their parents are involved in the planning process.

Over the next three years, we will be developing a new pathway to graduation. This will happen through courses that provide students with the basic academic skills leading to trades, occupations, and an improved ability to enter the workforce through additional courses in science and English.

The Schools North Apprenticeship Program, or SNAP, is a secondary school program designed to give students an opportunity to become registered apprentices while they are still in school. Working on an employer's jobsite, students earn secondary school credits through career and technology studies as well as time credits towards journey certification, and they are also paid for their work. We have seen a real commitment to SNAP on the part of the business community, high school, parents and students in Hay River. This commitment and high levels of participation has contributed greatly to the success of SNAP in Hay River.

Schools continue to work with Industry Canada and Skills Canada to promote trades and occupations through skills clubs and competitions. Our students have been very successful in this area and have received medals in national competitions. Chris Fournier, an NWT student, will even go on to represent Canada at the international skills competition in Helsinki this year.

Some school boards are providing innovative and exciting options for exploring trades. In the Beaufort-Delta, a mobile unit brings trades awareness and hands-on opportunities directly to the schools. In the South Slave, a Trades Training Pilot Program has been developed through a partnership between the South Slave Divisional Board of Education, Aurora College, and the NWT Housing Corporation. This program will expose students in Lutselk'e, Fort Resolution and the Hay River Reserve to hands-on trades training and information in areas that include cooking, heavy equipment mechanics, welding, plumbing and carpentry. The partnership with the Housing Corporation has resulted in four small social housing units being completed.

The department is piloting the Trades Helper Program this year. It will be available to high school students and youth at risk, and will teach them about worksites, time management, how to identify tools and understand safety programs, and will prepare them for a job assisting tradespeople.

Of course, skills development does not end with the K to 12 system, and there are a wide variety of activities to assist northern adults in this area. Convocation at Aurora College campuses across the NWT featured many northern students who first entered their chosen field of study through access programs that use the Adult Literacy and Basic Education Program. Students who may have started with low literacy skills now hold diplomas.

Aurora College continues to enhance programs to ensure that northerners have the right skills for our changing

labour market. We know there is more need for northern professionals in the fields of education, health and social services; the college has developed options to attract northerners to fill these positions. The college now offers Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I am pleased to report there are over 100 students enrolled in the nursing programs.

The government has increased investment in the Apprenticeship Program this year in a direct effort to increase the number of northerners pursuing journey certification. Department officials are working to increase the number of apprentices in the system beyond the 306 currently registered.

We have an increasing focus on preparing northerners to participate in mining, oil and gas exploration and pipeline development and operations. Education, Culture and Employment has invested in partnerships with aboriginal organizations, industry and the federal government through the two aboriginal skills and employment partnership programs covering mining and oil and gas. The two agreements fully engage all parties and particularly self-government bodies in labour market development initiatives.

As the Premier mentioned in his sessional statement, at the recent Western Premiers meeting, there was significant focus on labour market shortages in the North and West. An important focus of these discussions was about finding ways to address the low participation rates of aboriginal peoples in the labour force.

Western Premiers have agreed to work jointly on a strategy to deal with critical labour shortages in western and northern Canada, including working with employers and labour groups to identify best practices for the training and development of workers. Premiers will also bring western and northern aboriginal leaders together this summer to develop and implement a western Canadian aboriginal training strategy.

While we have a lot to celebrate and lots of activity, there is still a real shortage of skilled labour in the NWT and in fact across the country. This shortage presents challenges to our northern businesses and to our territory as a whole as we strive to realize benefits from our booming resource economy. This government remains committed to developing a strong northern workforce and will work in partnership with education authorities, Aurora College, business and industry to achieve our common goal.

To meet the increasing skilled labour demands of the mining industry, departmental officials are currently working with the Mine Training Society to create, at the two operating diamond mines, new apprenticeship positions. The society, in partnership with Aurora College, the North Slave Metis Alliance, Diavik Diamonds and ECE have recently announced a Mineral Processing Program to commence with 16 participants in June. This follows the funding of underground miner training with BHP Billiton and Kete Whii/Procon which will train 24 miners per year. As well, a Mine Training Society office administration co-op program partnering Aurora College and the three diamond mines is planned to commence in September for 10 to 15 students.

Focussing on successful initiatives like these, we will continue to build on our successes and work with our

partners to develop a strong, qualified northern workforce. Thank you.

---Applause

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

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Concerns With The GNWT Apprenticeship Training Program

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's pretty ironic listening to the Minister of Education's statement today. I will start off today saying I would like to speak about my concerns with Education, Culture and Employment's Apprenticeship Training Program. A constituent of mine has been trying to get their journeyman certificate in plumbing but, unfortunately, all their attempts have been thwarted and not aided by this program at all.

Madam Speaker, the Minister has said, and I quote, "For our people to get the most out of the diamond mines, oil and gas development and other projects, they need to have the training to do the work. The jobs surrounding these projects require highly skilled labour and we need to have certified northern journeypersons ready to fill them."

Madam Speaker, I would like to tell you a story of one of my constituents, and I have heard this story from other people as well, about a man who was trying to become one of those northern journeymen. My constituent needed to take a trades entrance exam. It took five months of calling the apprenticeship training office to successfully schedule an exam time, because it was nearly impossible to get in touch with anyone at the office. Every time they did manage to get hold of anyone, the 12 allotted seats for the exam were all full.

Madam Speaker, at no time did anyone even so much as offer to put him on a waiting list and contact him when a seat was available. When he finally was able to take the exam, only three out of the 12 available seats were filled. There is more, Madam Speaker. Anyone out of high school for a few years will need to brush up on their math and science in preparation for their entrance exams. While the apprenticeship training office wouldn't or couldn't offer any assistance in locating tutors or study sessions to help prepare for the entrance exam, my constituent had to contact every educational institution we have and finally he had to revert to placing an ad in the local newspaper before he could find a tutor.

After completing all of the above, my constituent couldn't get into the first year training course because it was too full. He had to take the course down south. He had to make all of the arrangements by himself. When he tried to access the second year training at the Thebacha Campus, they had no knowledge that he had the first year of training and that he now needed the second year.

Madam Speaker, then the second year of training was cancelled at the last minute with no reason for the cancellation ever being given to my constituent. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do not want to see any apprentices held back because of some desire to support Thebacha Campus, at the apprentice's expense.

Madam Speaker, there is no logic in forcing apprentices to wait sometimes 10 to 12 months in order to receive training. Delaying an apprentice's training for this long means falling a year behind in your training and maintaining the same lower wage for yet another year.

Madam Speaker, I will be asking the Minister of Education some questions about his department's organization of the Apprenticeship Training Program and his commitment to producing certified northern journeymen. Thank you.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement On Inuvik Transition House Funding Concerns**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Recently I met with workers at the Inuvik Transition House, which is a women's shelter in Inuvik. I have to tell you, Madam Speaker, I was very disappointed at how this government and its agencies treat an organization like the Inuvik Transition House which provides a valuable service to the community. Every year the Transition House must fight with the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Authority to negotiate a contract and secure funding for the next year. Every year the delays and frustrations surrounding the renewal of the contract cause stress and anxiety for the staff of the Inuvik Transition House.

In fact, Madam Speaker, just to keep the centre up and running, the Inuvik Transition House Society has to hold bingos on a regular basis to secure the necessary funding. The issue of finding adequate funding has become such a burden to the staff of the Inuvik Transition House that a staff member recently resigned because she could no longer handle the stress. The Inuvik Transition House unfortunately handles referrals from the outlying communities of the Beaufort-Delta. It has not received an increase in its contract or base funding for the last five years. Yet I know, Madam Speaker, that the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board has gotten an increase of approximately \$40,000 from the Department of Health and Social Services for delivery of the program during the same time frame. This does not seem fair to me.

During our AOC retreat in Tuktoyaktuk, we toured the transition house there also. They face the same problems as Inuvik, with inadequate and unsure funding sources. I am sure that the other women's shelters throughout the NWT would tell me the same thing.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to say that I believe that women's shelters and transition houses are an essential public service and deserve to be funded as such. The people who work in these facilities are exposed

to situations on a daily basis, dealing with the fallout from family violence that causes enough stress in their lives. As a government we should not be contributing to these stress levels. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Minimum Level Of Services To All NWT Communities**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as you are well aware, between the February and March budget session until we reconvened this week, all Members in this House had a chance to travel widely to many communities in the North. I have particularly appreciated traveling to Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, Fort McPherson, and just yesterday to Fort Liard with the Premier and some of the Members to meet and talk to the Deh Cho leaders.

Madam Speaker, in these gatherings, I always learn a lot. As I was reflecting on this last night, I noticed an obvious common theme. I would like today to advocate this government to legislate a minimum level of service for all 33 communities.

---Applause

Madam Speaker, that should include at least two nurses, two RCMP officers, a librarian and a school counsellor among those that are not currently available.

Madam Speaker, I also believe there should be at least one indoor gym and community centre...

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear! Hear!

**MS. LEE:** ...for people to gather and meet, like granny from Nahanni.

Madam Speaker, I know there are a lot more things that we could add to this list, but for me I would like to just make it clear that it is absolutely unacceptable that in the year of 2005, in one of the most prosperous countries in the world and in an area with one of the most heated economies within this county of Canada, our residents lack these most basic services.

Madam Speaker, it is absolutely unjustifiable in a budget of over \$1 billion where any given Minister can sign a cheque for \$200,000 to \$300,000 for a conference here and a conference there and a study this, study that, that we have communities without these services.

Madam Speaker, I believe fundamentally that strong communities are good for the NWT and strong communities are strong for the capital city of Yellowknife. I also know that the current Minister of Finance was a very strong and articulate advocate for zero-based budgeting when he used to sit next to me on this side of the House. I look forward to pursuing this matter further in the days to come.

In closing, Madam Speaker, may I just send special greetings to all the people in Tuktoyaktuk, Fort McPherson and Fort Liard who always tell me that they always watch us on TV. Hello to all. Thank you.



---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Recognition Of NWT Veterans**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this being the important year to honour the veterans of Canada and also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe, I feel it is important and appropriate to mention all of the NWT veterans who have served our country and that we all owe our gratitude and thankfulness that we can all hear and actively and openly participate in our government operations and management without oppression or any fear of prosecution or darkness.

Madam Speaker, the veterans that we owe our gratitude for this basic human right are:

- from Fort Smith, Archie Bevington, Edward Sproule, Edward Powder and Theresa Miltenberger;
- from Inuvik, Marcel Lacert and Art Carriere;
- from Yellowknife, Jack Adderley, Dusty Miller, Ethel Wilson, Catherine Lovell, Gordon Carter, Dorothy Carter, Brock Parsons, Jan Stirling, Bishop John Sperry, Robert Spence who has since passed on, and Ruth Ann MacEachern-Spence;
- from Hay River, Ken Hunt, Steve Kovatch, Jerry Eyford, Ross Ullathorne who has since passed on, Frank Hirst, John Lowe, Barney MacNeil and Bert Stephenson;
- from Norman Wells, Emile Delbrouck;
- from Fort Resolution, my most respected veteran, my dad, James Villeneuve.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear! Hear!

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** We must not forget our aboriginal peacekeepers: Tom Eagle, Timothy O'Loan, and Neil Pascal.

Madam Speaker, these are the NWT veterans we should all honour and always remember and ensure that our youth are made aware of their contributions and sacrifices that they have made for us all throughout the past century.

Madam Speaker, in summary let me just quote the words of the poet John McCrae who wrote of a soldier's sense of duty to the fallen, "We will onward till we win or fall, we will keep the faith for which they died." Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Diavik Travel Policy Impact On Sustainable Benefits**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. More than a decade ago when diamonds were discovered in the

Barren Lands hundreds of kilometres to the north and east of Yellowknife, we were anticipating a great new chapter in the development, the stability and the prosperity of the North Slave region in the Northwest Territories. Indeed, a lot of that has been manifested with the opening of the BHP and the Diavik mines, and we celebrate De Beers' decision to move ahead on Snap Lake. There are a number of other prospects that could also become part of this new chapter in the North and indeed in Canada.

Madam Speaker, our expectations of this sector helping to grow our communities on a sustained basis were looked at very carefully and very seriously in socioeconomic agreements that have been signed. These set out targets for workforce development, for business opportunities and indeed we see the signs of that.

But, Madam Speaker, our faith in that and our expectations received quite a setback with Diavik's announcement a few weeks ago that it was going to extend free travel not just from northern communities to the worksite, but from Edmonton. This really causes the communities here to look at just what can we continue to expect from the future of diamond mining as part of really a sustained and prosperous economy. What Diavik has done is certainly within the realm of the socioeconomic agreement; this is not a criticism against that company. They have a very large operation to continue to have to feed and they need workers. This is their difficulty. As the Minister told us in his statement, all of western and northern Canada has a deficit. Madam Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The Member for Great Slave is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Braden, you may conclude your statement.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. So to conclude, I want to make a point that there is consideration, there is a situation happening here that is going very much against some of the hopes and the dreams and the expectations that we have about developing this industry, and seeing it grow our communities and our economy. I hope that we can look at this very vigorously in the near future to assist those companies in satisfying their demands, but also for them to look at ways in which they will continue to be the corporate citizens that I think we had all expected they will be, and indeed I think they can be. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

#### **Member's Statement On Access To Dialysis Treatment In Nahendeh**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Madam Speaker, today I would like to speak about a basic level of service that is needed by the elders in my riding; specifically, the ability of Nahendeh elders to receive dialysis treatment in Fort Simpson, the ability to have this treatment in our own region and community. Madam Speaker, most of us are familiar with the gruelling task of travel to another community often not knowing anyone, being alone, and the cultural differences.

This is exactly what many elders in my communities are faced with weekly while traveling to Yellowknife for dialysis needs while not feeling well.

Traveling is emotionally, mentally and physically demanding for anyone, especially if it is weekly and one is sick. Recently I went to visit an elder constituent that is captive in Yellowknife because of his disease. He told me I am here, I am away from all of my relatives who care for me, who can visit me, and he asked me, Madam Speaker, why can't they bring a machine home for me. Today I would like this government to answer that.

The GNWT invested in a dialysis machine when Fort Smith had five patients needing treatment. The Nahendeh region has three and possibly four people in need of this treatment, Madam Speaker. Also, with the large elderly population in Nahendeh, I know that this will require the GNWT to eventually invest in a dialysis machine. Better sooner than later I say when it comes to dialysis machines for the regions.

Another one of my constituents does most of his treatment at home and will soon require the travel to Yellowknife regularly. Unfortunately, his condition is slowly deteriorating and he would be more comfortable in a facility during his treatment. If it's in Fort Simpson he would be close to friends and family, and the communities are the best places for treatment such as this, Madam Speaker. The GNWT Health and Social Services cannot continue to calculate these essential services by numbers alone. The regional differences and costs associated and the quality of life of our very important elders must be paramount and supersede any departmental calculation. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### **Member's Statement On Flood In Fort Good Hope**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My statement today is on the Fort Good Hope flood. Madam Speaker, today I want to talk about the recent flood in Fort Good Hope. I want everyone in Fort Good Hope to know that I'm thinking about them today. I'm very proud to say that the community really pulled together to help each other through this very difficult time. I also want to thank the government's response to the needs of the community when they requested help. Finally, I want to thank the local emergency measures team in Fort Good Hope for all the work they did, especially to Joe Grandjambe, Fred Rabesca and Henry Tobac, and to the many volunteers who just did the right thing by helping out 24/7.

Madam Speaker, the ice is gone, the floods are receding, but there is still a huge mess to be cleaned up in Fort Good Hope. I don't want anyone to think we're forgetting them. Over 25 people and families have been affected by this flood. A lot of families and elders are still homeless and are having to live at other homes. This is a terrible situation, Madam Speaker. Some estimates say that they may not be able to get back into their homes for another three months or longer. I see similar situations on TV such as floods. However, coming face to face with the effects on families and communities is quite a different story.

So my hat is off to the people, especially the elders who were affected directly. I want to encourage the Ministers of the Department of Public Works, Housing Corporation, Health and Social Services, ITI, ENR and MACA to come up to Fort Good Hope to see for themselves the damage that was left there by the floods, so the families can feel confident that the government's highest level of legislators have their attention and their homes will be getting the attention they deserve to get it done.

Madam Speaker, the community has also suffered losses to their cabins and equipment out on the land, and they need some government help. Madam Speaker, the flood is gone, the people are left high and dry, the community is rebuilding and they will rebuild. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

#### **Member's Statement On Concerns In Sachs Harbour**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about a number of issues affecting the residents of Sachs Harbour. Over the past year, renovations have been ongoing at the health centre. The hamlet was told on several occasions that inspections would take place at every stage of construction. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 23, 2005, the mayor of Sachs was informed that a single inspection -- that is a single inspection, Madam Speaker -- would take place in the previous week. To date there has been no such inspection. So to add to the frustrations with the delay of the completion of the renovations of the health centre, the residents now have to worry about what the one inspection lists and what problems they will encounter in the future.

Madam Speaker, just because an asset like a health centre is in a small community doesn't mean that it should not be subject to the same level of inspections and scrutiny that would be associated with the construction or renovations of an asset in a larger community.

Madam Speaker, over the winter, an Inuvik contractor overhauled the water pumping station. Since that time there have been problems with the intake pipes freezing up. A hamlet employee must chop the ice from the intake every morning before they start deliveries. This has led to delays in delivering water, which we all know is essential to the health and welfare of residents. The Department of Public Works and Services must address this problem this summer.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I would like to talk about the need for permanent RCMP officers in Sachs Harbour. I have raised this issue in previous sessions and will continue to do so until the residents of Sachs Harbour have access to the same level of policing services that all communities have come to expect. I do not want anyone to die because a charter from Inuvik cannot get RCMP officers to Sachs Harbour fast enough to deal with a dangerous situation. Sachs Harbour is too far away to be served by another detachment. The Department of Justice needs to find funding to reopen the Sachs Harbour RCMP detachment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Member's Statement On Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program Inequities**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise again today on the foot of yesterday's Member's statement. I still have serious concerns with the EDAP program. Madam Speaker, I want to firmly ensure that people of the Northwest Territories know that I am absolutely proud that this government is putting people in the North into home ownership, and I think that's the number one issue that needs to come forward here so people know that it's important for me.

However, Madam Speaker, I don't think it's fair that we continue to give one family \$72,000 to ensure that that one family gets into a housing situation where, as I said yesterday, we could have helped three families with approximately \$24,000. That would have been a fair and reasonable down payment, but no, Madam Speaker, we have to offer payments of over \$50,000, \$60,000 to one family. But it doesn't stop there. We gave one family \$109,000 for construction costs. In my mind, that could have helped five families very reasonably in our Yellowknife area. I think that's totally out of touch with what's considered fair and reasonable, and I need this Minister to provide details and maybe start looking into caps of what is considered reasonable assistance. That's outrageous. I think in the phrase EDAP we should get rid of the D and A and call it expanded payment program. It's not a downpayment; it's almost buying that person a house.

Madam Speaker, that is not fair to the families that didn't get their applications approved and that's why I'm here today, is because there were families that didn't get approved. The pot dried up because we only decided to help 14 families last budget year instead of who knows how many more we could have put into home ownership.

Madam Speaker, it's about helping the families, not one family. But the families we turned away we have to remember are still trapped in those low income support housing and we could do more. This government needs to look at what's considered a reasonable cap and reasonable assistance. As I said yesterday, anything over \$50,000 is just out of touch and, as far as I'm concerned, giving one family \$109,000 for construction costs is completely unreasonable. So I'm just going to say again today that just ain't right. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Lee.

**ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday we had the pleasure of having students from Hay River, and today we have a class from Yellowknife who has been patiently waiting to be recognized. Madam Speaker, it's always good to have them here and it's my pleasure. I would like to do this in French, but if I did nobody would understand it. I know they speak better English than I

speak French. So it is my great pleasure to recognize the grade 3 and 4 class, Madam Isabelle Cormier's class, from Ecole Allain St-Cyr. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Welcome to the visitors' gallery. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I would like to recognize Mr. Douglas Dillon, Mr. William Greenland, Ms. Bren Kolson from the aboriginal radio station in the north here. Also at this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize two of the Pages from Deline that helped out the last couple of days; Cyre Yukon who is a Grade 11 student from Deline and Kyle Bayha who is a Grade 10 student from ?ehtseo Ayha School in Deline. Thank you.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya, and thank you to all the Pages who have helped us out in the chamber this week. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would just like to welcome William Greenland, a friend of mine from Inuvik. Thank you.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question 27-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Picking up on my Member's statement from earlier today, I'd like to say that the Minister and the government are saying all the right things about apprenticeship and the need to develop a skilled workforce here in the Northwest Territories. Madam Speaker, the reality is that's not the case for all the apprentices, and where there is smoke there is fire. I know the Minister received an e-mail yesterday outlining some difficulties a constituent of one of my colleagues was having, and the scenario that I outlined for him earlier today is not one that I haven't heard before and I have heard some serious concerns about the apprenticeship office and the difficulty apprentices are having accessing the needs and the services that they require. I'd like to ask the Minister of ECE if it's not the role of the apprenticeship office to help northerners enter the trades. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

**Return To Question 27-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Absolutely, yes. It is the role of the apprenticeship office. It's the role of all of the staff that work in Education,

Culture and Employment to make sure that people have the best opportunity to advance.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 27-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Yes, thanks, Madam Speaker. Does the Minister know why it would take my constituent five months to get a seat at the entrance exam, and why would the office not keep a waiting list for people wanting to take that exam? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 27-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'm disturbed to hear that that wasn't looked after in the office and that there wasn't a waiting list kept. I will follow up on that issue. I know that over this past winter we added a second officer to the staff at the North Slave office. I'm hoping that this incident occurred before that person was added, and that we have dealt with issues like that now. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 27-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd also like to ask the Minister why this office wouldn't better coordinate the trades training with a partner school down south so that if classes are full here or they are cancelled for no apparent reason that students can be routed down south so that they can continue their education. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 27-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is the intention. That should be happening already. I've asked the department to discuss this issue with Aurora College and make sure that we're managing our cancellation policies better than what appears to be the case. That discussion will happen within the next couple of weeks. The department does often pay for apprentices to study in the South. One of the problems that we run into though is when the number of participants suddenly declines, when it's not expected the courses can be cancelled. Right now in the North we cancel the course if we have fewer than five students. For instance, the last time the plumbers course was scheduled in Thebacha, just at the last minute two who were registered to attend dropped out, which brought the number down to three for that course, and at that point it was too late to get them into the courses that were offered in the South, and that's what has led to some of the problems. Knowing that that is an issue, we are going to work with the college and try and come up with a different way of managing the cancellations to try to ensure that we are able to deal with these issues in a more proactive way.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 27-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, given the issues that he has heard about today and the issues that are out there, I know my colleagues have heard other issues related to this office, I am wondering if he could commit to doing a review of this training program. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 27-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will have to get more details on what he means by a review. The overall program of apprenticeship is administered by the apprenticeship board, but the operation of the offices is something that is run by the department. If the Member is asking whether or not we will review the operation of the offices, absolutely. That process has already started and will hopefully be concluded very quickly.

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

**Question 28-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my questions are also for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and it's regarding the same issue as the Member for Kam Lake has raised. When I was listening to Mr. Ramsay's statement, I thought maybe he was reading the correspondence that I received from my constituent because the stories are exactly the same. I think the Minister is aware of this issue because I have been copied a letter that was sent to him. It has to do with some young person who wants to get into an apprenticeship program to get his plumbing certificate and he's learning that because of a lack of resources or obstacles in their office that he's not even able to register as an apprentice this year. He has to wait until 2006 to be even registered. That would set him back another two years. In the times that we have where we don't have enough tradespeople and where there should be more focus and where there should be more efficiency rather than obstacles, it just baffles me why this is the case. I would like to know what the Minister's best answer is to this question.

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

**Return To Question 28-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Having just gotten the letter the Member referred to yesterday, I don't have an answer as to the specifics. I say, as I did to Mr. Ramsay, that we have added staff in the North Slave office. We are continuing to review the

operations of that office. If there are some problems, then they will be dealt with. I agree with the Member that the goal here is to get as many young people here involved in apprenticeship as possible. It offers young people today one of the best opportunities or a career in the future in the North. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 28-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me say, to be fair, that there is a lot of good work being done with this program. I have attended many graduation ceremonies for this program where we have produced lots of tradespeople. It appears though that we are not doing as well as we should be doing. I understand that the Minister is going to look into this, but just like the basic level of services that I was talking about in my Member's statement, I wonder if the Minister could set a basic minimum rule that when someone wants to be registered as an apprentice in the North that they shouldn't have to wait for more than one school year. Is it not a doable goal or policy that the Minister could make? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 28-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would think that that would be a very reasonable rule to have and I would expect that our goal is much less than one year right now. I don't know the specifics of the complaint, having only gotten it yesterday; I don't know the instances around other circumstances that may be involved. There may be, as I mentioned to Mr. Ramsay, circumstances where you wind up in training courses. Last minute cancellations impact on a number of people and that happens not only here, but in Alberta. In Alberta, they cancel courses as well if they have a number of people drop out just before they start. So that can cause the cancellation for people to attend courses down south, even when we have been prepared to put people there. So in terms of the registration, I will have to follow up on the specifics of the case and find out why it has taken so long. I would agree with the Member that it should be absolutely no more than one year. I believe that our goal is much less than that already.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 28-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given the situation we are dealing with here and there seems to be numerous situations here of similar cases that obviously these goals are not being met, and the case I am talking about is a person who has studied his program in 2004 and he is expected to finish this year but he cannot register until next year. I can understand cancellations happening and such, but would the Minister look into guaranteeing that whoever is registered for an apprenticeship program, even if there are three or four students, that the courses continue? You cannot hold

back people's careers and lives for a year or two. These people don't get full salaries and there are lots of inconveniences in that way. So if we can't hold the programs in Fort Smith because of a lack of enrollment, would the Minister consider sending them to southern locations so they can continue on with their education? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 28-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. In fact, we already do. If we can't get people into Fort Smith, we are prepared to support them travelling to Alberta. If the course doesn't have enough numbers in Fort Smith, we are prepared to support people travelling to Alberta. The problem we have is we can't always get people into those courses in Alberta either. There is a substantial waiting time to register for those courses. So it's not something we can do on a moment's notice. There has to be a lot of coordination between the employer, the apprentice, and the apprenticeship office in terms of the scheduling. As I said, the department is meeting with the college in the next few weeks to talk about course cancellations to find ways to deal with that issue to try to encourage people to participate.

You know, by and large, the program has been extremely successful. In the Territories, we have the highest per capita participation rate of apprenticeship of any jurisdiction in Canada. So the program is being very successful. We are getting an awful lot of people through. Since our program started, we have had over 4,500 people who have graduated with journey certification. We have had a tremendous amount of success.

I am hoping that what has been identified by the two Members are individual issues that don't represent what is happening in the system, but I have started an investigation to ascertain whether that's the case. If this is a problem that goes deeper than the two circumstances, then it will be dealt with. You have my word on that.

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

**Supplementary To Question 28-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are aware of the fact that this session is only going to go until next Thursday. I do want to give the Minister time to respond to this, but could I get him to commit to giving us the information back and responding to these correspondences before the end of session? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 28-15(4): Apprenticeship And Training Program Concerns**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will do my utmost to try to achieve that.

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

**Question 29-15(4): Condition Of Highway No. 7**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Transportation. Just yesterday I went to the Deh Cho First Nation meeting in Fort Liard. The second sentence, after how are you, was when will you fix this road, meaning Highway No. 7 from Fort Simpson to Fort Liard. They also indicated that you should have driven that so you know what we are talking about. Indeed, I can assure my constituents, Madam Chair, that last week I did have the experience of driving to and from Fort Liard. My question to the Minister is constituents have been telling Transportation verbally and in writing about the condition of the road. Why have there been no repairs or improvements made to Highway No. 7 in the past month, Madam Chair? Mahsi.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 29-15(4): Condition Of Highway No. 7**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there is a period of time between winter and summer, it's called spring...

---Laughter

...when we have difficulty to provide any type of meaningful maintenance on our roads, be it chipseal or gravel. There is a period of time that we need to allow our roads to thaw. We have recognized the increased level of traffic on all our roads in the NWT. We have concerns being raised by people across the Northwest Territories on our gravel roads and on our roads that are chipsealed; however, we need to be able to do our repairs when the roads are thawed. We have looked into the situation where concerns have come from; the Deh Cho communities on Highway No. 7. We have done an inspection just last week and we have instructed our contract crews to start doing repairs. We should also point out that we are continuing to improve Highway No. 7. We have committed to spend over \$4 million on that section of road to try to deal with the level of traffic and to increase the upkeep of the road and do some major reconstruction on some of the bridges and some sections of that road to improve it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 29-15(4): Condition Of Highway No. 7**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to indicate to the honourable Minister that when constituents lodge formal complaints, be it verbal or written, the department should be responsive to them and indicate what they are actually going to do about the ruts in the road that they are concerned about. Mostly it's a safety factor, Madam Chair. As well, I do have to concur with the Minister that we found some extra money for Highway No. 7 to upgrade and improve it. But, Madam Speaker, when will the department start spending that money we have? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 29-15(4): Condition Of Highway No. 7**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I apologize to the Member if any complaints that have come forward have not been responded to, and I would certainly like to speak with the Member to see where those complaints are coming from and who it was addressed to. We make every effort to respond to all issues that are brought forward, be it from headquarters or the region. We will contact our staff to see if any complaints have come forward that we haven't dealt with. As to when we will start spending money on Highway No. 7, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that we started spending money on Highway No. 7 two years ago. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 29-15(4): Condition Of Highway No. 7**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister indicates that there has been work on Highway No. 7 and I have to reiterate a word I learned earlier in the week, it's woefully inadequate, Madam Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Woefully!

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** So I think the plan here is if the Minister can indicate to his department about the communities and tell them about this plan, because it's just not apparent and people aren't seeing anything done. If the Minister can indicate to the communities about what that plan is, that would be appreciated. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 29-15(4): Condition Of Highway No. 7**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will certainly take the Member's advice. We will commit to have our staff go into the communities to meet with the community leaders and present what our plans are. I should point out, in some cases a lot of the work that's being done that is requiring some investment and some expenditure is hard to see physically because some of it is in design, some of it is in stockpiling the gravel, and some of it is in restructuring plans. We will certainly take that as direction to go to the communities in the Deh Cho and present those future plans. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Question 30-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish I had questions for the Minister of Transportation today because I also have driven the soupy cow trail, also referred to as Highway No. 7. Fortunately, the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation will have the pleasure of my questions today, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, yesterday and today I talked about the \$72,000 payment for down payment assistance, as well

as a \$109,000 payment. My concern is the pot is drying up very quickly with the enormous, outrageous payments to one or two clients out there that, as far as I am concerned, aren't connected to any type of reality other than trying to get as big of a payment as possible while we are missing out on helping families. Only 14 families were helped last year. Did we turn any approved applications away last year because the pot had dried up? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

**Return To Question 30-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, we have, because there are certain responsibilities individuals have. Sure, you can put an application in, but it's approved based on certain conditions. You have to be able to acquire a mortgage from a bank. You have to go to a financial institution. You have to identify exactly what your income threshold is and make sure you can afford to pay down the mortgage. Last, but not least, it's conditional that you obtain financing through a bank before we go forward with the application. There is also a 90-day time period where you have to ensure that you go through that process in the 90 days, have all the information provided to the Housing Corporation, and maintain a mortgage which is guaranteed through a bank. So there are conditions that you have to meet and if you do not meet those conditions, your application is pulled. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Everyone is doing really well this morning. I have only been called Mr. Speaker twice, but I noticed Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Krutko have referred to me as Madam Chair. For the record, we are in the formal sitting of the chamber and Madam Speaker would be more appropriate.

---Laughter

**Supplementary To Question 30-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Humblest apologies, Madam Speaker, humblest apologies. Madam Speaker, I think the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation gave me an excellent answer to a question I really hope to ask one of these days, because it was a very qualitative answer. The question was, clearly, if someone was approved of the financing, approved of the waiting period, approved of everything, that great answer that was said by the Minister. Were any applications returned because the funding pot had dried up? I am referring to only approved applications. Were any returned because of no money? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 30-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Madam Chair, like I stated...Sorry, Madam Speaker. Like I stated, there is a budget that we do operate out of. In last year's budget, we allocated almost \$2.2 million and out of that we approved

42 applications. The program is universal right across the Northwest Territories, not only in Yellowknife. We have allocated \$1 million this year for the city of Yellowknife for this program. It's based on the number of applications you get and the amount of money in the budget. So you approve the budget through this process and you can help only so many people with the resources you have. So on that basis, people will be turned down if there is no more money in the program.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 30-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think we were really close to an answer that time. We heard "will be turned down," but we didn't hear "were turned down." So, Madam Speaker, were any applications turned down, yes or no, because of lack of funding? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 30-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 30-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for that efficient reply. Now I will ask the fine Minister the detailed question, which was how many applications were turned down? If we turned down one, that is a travesty. So how many applications did we turn away at the door because the funding pot had dried up with us giving away outrageous payments of \$50,000 plus, \$60,000 plus, \$72,000 plus? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 30-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as we all know, the program is based on the amount of money that we do have in the pot and the number of applications you have received. On that basis, it depends on the amount of applications. Yes, we have turned people down time and again. That's why people continue to go back year after year to reapply on these programs, because there is only so much money in the pot. If the Member would like to ensure that they increase the budget next year for this program so we can assist more people, I think that is the way we can solve this problem. Thank you.

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

**Question 31-15(4): Assistance To Fort Good Hope Flood Victims**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, as the lead Minister of emergency services, what is the government doing to get the people in Fort Good Hope back into their homes and back to their lives prior to the flood as soon as possible? What is the Minister doing? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 31-15(4): Assistance To Fort Good Hope Flood Victims**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I guess I should first of all commend the community of Fort Good Hope for all of their efforts and their ability to work together during this real tense time this spring, when we were experiencing some severe flooding in that community. I would also like to commend the MLA for that riding for all of his good work in keeping the communications line open during that difficult time.

Madam Speaker, we are, as the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, working with a number of other departments within this government to ensure that there is a smooth effort or action plan undertaken to allow people to return to a normal routine in their lives. We have had our emergency management coordinator in the community for several days over this past week to do an assessment of where and how things can be dealt with. We have assessed that the damage is well over \$1 million in the community. That does not include some of the damage that has happened to some of the houses for the NWT Housing Corporation.

We have had, along with our coordinator, an insurance adjuster in the community doing an assessment, and we have also contracted a disaster services agency from Yellowknife to help us put together an action plan and start doing some of the recovery. We have already seen the Fort Good Hope Band Council do a lot of the work that is required in terms of cleanup. They have cleaned up some of the contaminated public areas and worked on some of the flooded-out roads. We are doing everything in our power to ensure that this is done quickly. We have done a lot of work to put together an action plan; we have a lot of people in the communities from the government. I did a quick count and we have at least 25 people from the different departments in this government do their assessments and go into the community and look at their responsibilities. We are trying to package all that up and have the people back in their houses and have the seniors' home up and running.

The Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation informs me that the renovations to the seniors' home is 95 percent complete, so that is something that we could look at opening fairly quickly, depending if it passes the inspections that are required. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 31-15(4): Assistance To Fort Good Hope Flood Victims**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. That is good news for the people back in Fort Good Hope. I also wanted to say congratulations to the Ministers and the departments for how they coordinated this situation in Fort Good Hope. As part of the coordination, I want to ask the Minister of MACA, would he commit to looking at the emergency measures policy in terms of if there is a similar type of situation in the NWT? They had some hiccups of the local emergency measures and the post-flood situation, and the department needs to look at the emergency measures guidelines and policies and a tightening up of the coordination by the departments. Would the Minister commit to reviewing the emergency measures with the community of Fort Good Hope on similar situations that may happen in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 31-15(4): Assistance To Fort Good Hope Flood Victims**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will certainly commit to doing that. We do review our emergency measures policy on a regular basis. Each community has emergency measures plans, however, there is a time for updating the plans and for reviewing the plans with the community, especially in the areas where there are changes in council. We will commit to reviewing the emergency measures policy and the plans and meet with the communities. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 31-15(4): Assistance To Fort Good Hope Flood Victims**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, part of the flood damages are people who have cabins, who have houses, equipment and supplies on the land. Would the Minister commit to the people of Fort Good Hope and to the House here that he will have some discussions with ITI and the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources regarding compensation for the loss of the cabins and skidoos of the trappers? I understand the policy on natural disasters per occurrence is about a \$4,500 maximum for compensation. Would they have some discussion as to how they could properly compensate the cabin owners who have lost some of their personal belongings and property? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 31-15(4): Assistance To Fort Good Hope Flood Victims**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I cannot speak for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, however, my information tells me that there has been some analysis done in that area. I believe there was a helicopter survey done and there has been some assessment already conducted in the area of damages to the cabins. I believe



there is a trapper's compensation program that can be accessed through this program. I will take that request to the appropriate Ministers and have them respond accordingly. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 31-15(4): Assistance To Fort Good Hope Flood Victims**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the meetings with the Fort Good Hope people and the people who were affected by the flood shed a new light on the effects of the disaster by the Mackenzie River. The people really want to see the highest level of government in the community of Fort Good Hope. I ask the Minister of MACA how soon could he and possibly some other Ministers arrange a trip into Fort Good Hope to talk to the people, so that they have some degree of comfort by the Ministers that this government does have a heart and they do care? They will be happy to see the Ministers in Fort Good Hope. Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 31-15(4): Assistance To Fort Good Hope Flood Victims**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I don't know how many times I have to stand up in this House and assure the Member that I do have a heart and I do care.

Madam Speaker, the sense of urgency for the Fort Good Hope flood has probably passed. There is some consideration from the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation to see if he can go into the community this weekend, providing that his travel schedule allows it. The Member of Parliament, Ethel Blondin-Andrew, has contacted me and is in the community today; she left this morning. Our session schedule doesn't allow me to get into the community. We did try to go to Fort Good Hope. We had scheduled a trip last Saturday with many of our staff and all the people involved around the issue of the flood. We waited at the airport for some period of time to fly out of here, however, the weather was not cooperating and we could not get in. We checked again in the afternoon and the planes still were not allowed to fly into that area, so we had to cancel out. We really apologize for that.

We are in contact with the chief of the community; we are talking with the band council and the SAO. There are a number of issues that are coming forward that are not really directly related to the flood, so we want to try to compile an agenda and set up a schedule to get into the community. We really want to have a sit-down, face-to-face meeting to talk about some of the issues that are coming forward as a result of this flood to see if there are any problems with the whole process. Of course, I had made earlier commitments to go into Colville Lake, so we are trying to see if we can fit that in also. This will probably be my sixth or seventh trip into the Sahtu, so I am getting to know the area fairly well. Thank you.

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

**Question 32-15(4): Impact Of New Diavik Travel Policy**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My questions this morning are for the Honourable Brendan Bell in his capacity as Minister of Investment, Tourism and Industry. It might be the other way around, but I hope that's clear enough. Madam Speaker, I want to follow up on the statement I made earlier on the diamond mining industry and its impact or potential lack of impact on our long-term sustainable economy here. Madam Speaker, we have long complained about resource industries being fly-in/fly-out industries. Here, unfortunately, we have another manifestation of this with Diavik's decision and it's quite allowable, I would underline, through the socioeconomic agreement, within the first four years of the agreement, to fly workers in from outside of the NWT at no cost. Madam Speaker, how are we to grow our economy if we allow ourselves to continue to be treated as any other remote outpost that multinationals can fly-in/fly-out either workers or product? How can we continue to grow if this is the way we continue to regard ourselves? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 32-15(4): Impact Of New Diavik Travel Policy**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a difficult issue for us to address, but we know what we need to do is get more northerners trained, especially for the jobs that require a high level of expertise. The fact of the matter at that specific mine is 70 percent of their workforce -- I think it's 72 percent, in fact -- are northerners. The other 30 percent currently come from the South. Had we had that expertise locally available in the North, there would be no one coming in from the South. That is our goal. That's why we have programs set up like the ASEP program that the Minister of Education has been working diligently on with industry and with communities. I think that's the future, Madam Speaker. The future is to get our people trained to take advantage of the opportunities that are there for them. I don't believe the mine has any interest in flying people in from the South unless they absolutely need to. It's more expensive. As I said earlier and yesterday to the questions, people who live and work in the North are much more likely to stay at those jobs. The cost of turnover is huge for mines. When you have people trained and prepared to stay, the longer they stay, the less you have to train replacements. So they have a vested interest in using northerners and I am sure if they could use 100 percent northerners, they would. It's up to us as government and northerners to get our people trained to take advantage of those opportunities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 32-15(4): Impact Of New Diavik Travel Policy**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Those are all very good and very valid explanations, part of the foundation of our understanding. Certainly the mines collectively deserve congratulations and compliments for the investment they have made in doing that. It is truly a

partnership. It continues to be a source of concern that we are seeing this trend, unfortunately, come into a reality. Madam Speaker, the cost of living and separation from friends and relatives is one of the main reasons that southern workers say they cannot move to the Northwest Territories. Now we can't do much about the distance and the separation from friends and relatives, but we can about the cost of living. What is the GNWT doing to help address the high and already getting higher cost of living here in Yellowknife? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 32-15(4): Impact Of New Diavik Travel Policy**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a very comprehensive and broad response required to that difficult question. It is a priority of the government to start to address the cost of living in the North, and it's one that cuts across many departments and many aspects of life in the North. Obviously we need to make more land available for housing developments. We need to pursue opportunities like hydro to make sure that the cost of electricity across the North isn't so onerous. There are many things that we need to do. We need to focus as a government on a number of these issues, but there is no denying that in an overheated economy, wage inflation pressures drive the cost, because it's very competitive, of labour up. It's more and more expensive for those who provide services to employ people to carry out those services. So the effect is one of compounding the problem. I suppose many people would say it's a good problem to have because the economy is so hot, but we do know there are issues we need to be able to address. I don't think government can do it on its own, Madam Speaker, but we certainly can play a significant role. That is part of our priority and strategy as a government. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 32-15(4): Impact Of New Diavik Travel Policy**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing that rather far-ranging question and for the Minister's answer. I will come back to the theme of workers choosing not to live in the Northwest Territories. There is a concern in the city, Madam Speaker, that workers who are now residents of the Northwest Territories may look at this and say if I can get my way paid from Edmonton, I am going to move to Edmonton. I get the big salary, I enjoy the lower cost of living, I am closer to friends and relatives and other kinds of amenities. What kind of protections are there in the socioeconomic agreements, Madam Speaker, that will prevent or deter workers from actually retreating and leaving the Northwest Territories?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 32-15(4): Impact Of New Diavik Travel Policy**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Madam Speaker, in much of this discussion, we tend to want to focus on the hypothetical, the what-ifs. We don't know what's going to happen and obviously we can't chain people up and force them to work or force them to live somewhere. We have to

do our best to make sure that it is an environment that people want to live in; that's what we are here to do. We are here to improve life, reduce the cost of living and make sure this is the best place in the country to live. I believe it is. Will some people want to move south because they have now seen a window? I don't know. I guess hypothetically that is the case. The mines do provide the charters coming north. They are aware of who is on these charters, but they can't insist that because you have chosen to move south for whatever reason that you can no longer be employed at the mine. I hazard a guess that they would run afoul of provisions of the Charter of Rights by suggesting that. So I think it's important for us to focus on what we can improve in the North, instead of looking at protectionist measures and trying to project the absolute worst-case scenario. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 32-15(4): Impact Of New Diavik Travel Policy**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister is right; we have to pursue an incentive and an attractive environment to work and live in, but I will go back to what I started with. The North has had such a history of fly-in/fly-out resource development and we have worked so hard to counter that. The agreements that we put in place under considerable pressure, Madam Speaker, to get the diamond companies to comply with our desire to leave some of the product here so we could work on it is one example of how we have worked so hard to make this happen. The concerns I raise about workers now potentially making these kinds of choices is a signal that we have to do as much as we can to make this an attractive environment. So I would come back and ask the Minister what steps he is taking with Diavik to constructively reverse the opportunity they've made, and not just wait for another two years before this agreement comes up. What steps are we taking right now to help Diavik attract and keep workers living in the North? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 32-15(4): Impact Of New Diavik Travel Policy**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have met with the company, Diavik specifically, a couple of times recently about this. We've had discussions around training for the most part because that really is the answer here, is to make sure that programs like ASEP are up and running, and are able to provide training for people who are currently not employed and who want to be employed, but I think that's the answer. As we stated earlier, Diavik is complying with the terms of the socioeconomic agreement. Their explanation for having to do this is one of a very hot economy in western Canada and the fact that 30 percent of their workforce is coming from the South is highly sought after for southern projects. They're trying to make sure that there's not a disincentive for them to come north. It's quite possible that as these people come north and get more familiar with life in the North, that they'll in fact want to relocate here, and I don't think that we can discount that possibility either, Madam Speaker.

So, much of this is hypothetical, but I would say to the Member the Member is aware of people who are specifically coming to his office and suggesting that they're now going to leave the South, this is the window they've been looking for because the \$10,000 in northern allowance payments they get from the company was really now something they were going to leave on the table and take the \$3,000 travel benefit, and that was the difference. But I'm prepared to sit down and talk to the Member and committee about that. So if the Member has some specific names or incidences, we can sit down and discuss that. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pokiak.

**Question 33-15(4): Status Of Sachs Harbour Public Works Projects**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question today might be referred to the Minister of Public Works and Services. In my Member's statement this morning, I referred to the renovation projects going on in Sachs Harbour and the amount of time that they are taking to renovate the health centre in Sachs Harbour, and also inspections. Madam Speaker, I had a chance to speak with the maintenance superintendent of MACA during the Beaufort-Delta Regional Council meeting in Inuvik, and I also relayed the information to the regional superintendent of Public Works and Services in Inuvik about the problem that Sachs is encountering. I think the question I have for the Minister of Public Works and Services is at what stage are the renovations taking place now for the health centre? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Roland.

**Return To Question 33-15(4): Status Of Sachs Harbour Public Works Projects**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Member is right; there have been a number of problems with a number of projects in Sachs Harbour. Unfortunately we've had weather delays, and that's one of the issues we have to deal with as residents of the Northwest Territories. Accessibility is hampered at times, as we've heard earlier today. The Sachs Harbour health centre renovation is largely complete. They were planning to do a substantial completion inspection in April, but it was aborted due to weather. In fact, the people doing the inspection tried to get into Sachs Harbour yesterday and they were delayed. Weather again became an issue. They are hoping to get in there today. My understanding is that the weather has gotten better and they should be in there today, and we should have an inspection report completed hopefully as early as Monday. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

**Supplementary To Question 33-15(4): Status Of Sachs Harbour Public Works Projects**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thanks for the information, Mr. Minister. I think living way up there you depend a lot on the weather I guess. It's good to hear, as the Minister just reported, that they are planning

to go up there. I think once the inspection is complete and the renovations are done, the whole community and people in Sachs Harbour will be very happy to be able to utilize the health centre. So I'm taking the Minister's word, Madam Speaker, that they are trying to get into Sachs Harbour. We can't fight with Mother Nature. So I would just like to say thank you for the Minister's response. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you. I didn't hear a question there I don't believe, Mr. Pokiak. Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Question 34-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'm still concerned with this EDAP program that we're not really getting anywhere, and I'd like to hear some real solid answers from the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I want to start hearing some real details of how we're helping honest people out there to get them into houses, and I want to see some reasonability of this program, because I still think it's out of touch and it's only helping certain people. The reason I say that is because the program is structured in such a way that if you have two incomes, you're practically exempt from this program the way the structure is set up. So I am overly concerned that it could be looked as the program of the well connected, and it has the appearance of only helping very few. That being said, I did a little calculation on Canadamortgage.com and if you have a purchase price for a house of \$200,000 and you have a down payment of \$72,000 your mortgage payment is under \$800 a month. So what is the methodology of this program? Is it to ensure that people have payments as little as possible? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

**Return To Question 34-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as we know, this program, the Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program, is to assist people wishing to get into their own homes through home ownership because they are paying well in excess of 25 or almost 30 percent of their income, which could be better served by getting into home ownership. This is not only for people in the high income bracket, this is also there to assist people and get them out of social housing and get them into home ownership, but only where their income shows that they are able to pay to maintain a home, and also be able to ensure that they are paying well in excess of 30 percent of social housing. This is not only intended for people with high incomes. The subsidy program that's being delivered through this program is a subsidy, which is depreciated over 15 years when that individual occupies that unit. It's not automatic that you get \$70,000. It's a subsidy that's provided to those individuals to subsidize them so they can get into home ownership, knowing that they are better off in home ownership than they would be in social housing. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I have two more people on the list for oral questions and the clock is

running out. So I would just ask Members to be brief and Ministers to be brief, so we can get those two Members' questions on the floor today. Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 34-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. With that in mind then I'll just ask directly is it the design of this program to get people out of social housing, which is a good thing, but is it designed to get them out of social housing at any cost? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 34-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as I stated, this program has assisted 570 people in which we were able to leverage \$42 million through bank financing to assist us with these 570 people. Yes, the goal of the program is to get people into home ownership and give people independence so that they are not stuck in social housing. In a lot of communities 90 percent of our houses are social housing facilities. We have to get them into a home ownership program. One of the programs we have is EDAP. The other program is the Independent Housing Program. We have programs designed to assist people to become homeowners. The large portion of the cost of these facilities is based on where you do your assessment. In Yellowknife everyone knows the cost of building in Yellowknife you are looking at \$250,000 to \$300,000 for a home. In the program we can support people up to 40 percent of the value of the home and the property it is on. So there are maximums of how far you can go with this program. So if you are looking at a \$300,000 home, then you can see how 40 percent of that will fall into the number that the Member is talking about. But we hear from this House, we have passed a motion for ourselves to bring down our core needs by 10 percent by 2007 and this is one way that we are going to do that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 34-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will agree with the Minister that putting 570 from social housing into home ownership is a great thing, it really is. But we were only able to help 14 people last year. If the Minister wants to mention that we are going to start putting people from social housing into outrageous \$400,000 houses, that is a little out of touch. I think the program needs to be cut in half and we could help 28 people with reasonable payments. Would the Minister table the sliding scale of this program, so we can all clearly see how it applies to families so we can get a real sense for this program? Would he table that? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 34-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 35-15(4): Inuvik Transition House Funding**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. In my Member's statement I spoke of the transition home in Inuvik having to constantly fight for funding. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he could inform me as to why the Transition House does not receive the full funding allocated by his department to the Inuvik Health and Social Services Board. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 35-15(4): Inuvik Transition House Funding**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam Speaker, I apologize. What happens is the money is sent from the department, once the budget is approved, to the authorities, then the authorities manage and implement the use of the money. So there are circumstances between the authority and the board and the Transition House that we are trying to sort out so the full amount of money is transferred. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 35-15(4): Inuvik Transition House Funding**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday I questioned the Minister on another matter regarding the Inuvik Health and Social Services Board and it turns out that we were both under the wrong assumption. Would it be possible for the funding to flow directly from his department to the Transition House in Inuvik and not through the health board? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 35-15(4): Inuvik Transition House Funding**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the intent of our whole health and services system is to have a relationship and structure where the authorities and the boards administer and run the programs in the regions on behalf of the people. So in order for us to do that, we have to continue to stay with that process. We are undergoing operational reviews of all the authorities to make sure everything is working the way it's supposed to be, and these are thorough, comprehensive operational reviews. There is one currently underway in Inuvik that is going to be finished in June and we will be sharing those findings with the Social Programs committee as well as Cabinet, with the goal being as efficient and effective as possible and to deal with issues such as this to make sure that the money

that is voted by the Legislature gets to the program area it was voted for. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod. Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. I have the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Question 36-15(4): Dialysis Services Needed In Nahendeh**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Earlier in my Member's statement, I spoke about the need for a dialysis machine in the Nahendeh riding, particularly in Fort Simpson to take care of our elders over there. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services how can we begin the process of bringing a dialysis machine to the Fort Simpson hospital. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche, for that concise question. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 36-15(4): Dialysis Services Needed In Nahendeh**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there is a saying that even a broken watch is right twice a day. Having said that...

---Laughter

...I would like to acknowledge that the Member has a very legitimate concern in terms of dialysis in his region and that I want to publicly state that the Health and Social Services department is going to be working with the authority to make sure we establish those services. We are looking at two communities outside of Yellowknife in addition to Fort Smith; Fort Simpson is one and Hay River is another because there is a need there. There are residents who currently require the service who cannot get it in their home community. The fundamental rationale is we are paying for the service somewhere, either in Yellowknife or Edmonton, and it makes far more sense to have the services as close to the people it serves as possible. Thank you.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 36-15(4): Dialysis Services Needed In Nahendeh**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hear the Minister and I am sure glad that the clock is ticking on this important subject for my constituents. Speaking about clocks, what is the timing like in moving a machine over to Fort Simpson? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 36-15(4): Dialysis Services Needed In Nahendeh**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, we are working on this as we now talked in this House. We have had meetings with authorities. We have talked to the department about it.

The rationalization to do this is very clear; the rationale is there, the justification. We are working on the planning. We are in the business planning process and we are looking at putting some of our federal funds to use as well when those are finally flowing to us, so we can deal with this issue as quickly as we can. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 36-15(4): Dialysis Services Needed In Nahendeh**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. That's exactly the kind of answer I was looking for, because I do have to see an elder this weekend. He is one of those captive by this disease in the Yellowknife hospital. Virtually, he's in his room. So, once again, they will be looking at this. Is there an active team that has been set up in the region to look at the transition of such a machine? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 36-15(4): Dialysis Services Needed In Nahendeh**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have spent an extensive amount of time doing this for the first time getting the services outside of Yellowknife into Fort Smith. We have worked out an arrangement with Stanton, with the Capital Health Authority. We have worked on the protocol and procedures. So it should be much more timely. We are working with the CEO and staff in the Deh Cho region, as well as with Stanton and the department and Hay River. We have people who have worked through this process once. So to set it up in Fort Simpson we anticipate will be considerably less onerous than it was the first time.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 36-15(4): Dialysis Services Needed In Nahendeh**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just with respect to the implementation stage, it's my understanding that the training might be quite detailed for people who handle the machine. Maybe the Minister can elaborate on how much training is involved, because there is some confusion back home that it's really quite extensive and some people have to take a lot of time out of their busy schedules to do this training. Perhaps the Minister can elaborate for me. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 36-15(4): Dialysis Services Needed In Nahendeh**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is about a six-week training component to get nurses and LPNs qualified and ready to provide this service. That service has been delivered out of Stanton for those individuals involved. Of course, we recognize this as a program expansion in the communities where the service is being delivered and recognize that it's impossible to expect them to do it with existing resources,

so we are moving to make sure that the appropriate resources are there, both in terms of human resources and fiscal resources. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for question period has expired. Mr. Krutko.

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko.

#### REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to have two Pages here from my riding. It's the first time I have had the opportunity to bring them down from my riding. It's a real opportunity for them to learn how the consensus government works and see how we operate here in the House. I would like to recognize Kayla Arey from Moose Kerr School in Aklavik...

---Applause

...and Jennifer Greenland from Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Premier Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, Jim Lynn from Detah.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier Handley. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

#### ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill, 3 An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Bell. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 3 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

##### Bill 4: An Act To Amend The Education Act

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Dent. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

##### Bill 5: An Act To Amend The Judicature Act

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Bell. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 5 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

##### Bill 6: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Bell. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 6 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger.

##### Bill 7: Personal Directives Act

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 6, Personal Directives Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 7 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Roland.

##### Bill 8: An Act To Amend The Revolving Funds Act

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Roland. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 8 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Minister McLeod.

**Bill 9: Municipal Statutes Amendment Act**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister McLeod. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 9 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Item 21, third reading of bills.

Just before item 22, orders of the day, I would like Members to take note that Mr. Pokiak will be celebrating, although he doesn't look it, his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday tomorrow, so we wanted to wish Mr. Pokiak a very happy birthday.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Monday, May 30, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006
- Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005
- Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act
- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act
- Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill 7, Personal Directives Act
- Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
- Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, May 30, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 11:56 a.m.





