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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, May 31, 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. Menicoche, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs. Jane Groenewegen): Good afternoon, colleagues. For the information of Members, the simultaneous interpretation today will be in the languages of Gwich'in and Inuvialuktun. At this time, item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 12-15(4): World No Tobacco Day**

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, today is World No Tobacco Day, a day set aside by the World Health Organization in 1988 to bring attention to the enormous global impact of tobacco use. Tobacco causes 10,000 deaths a day worldwide and is expected, in 15 years, to overtake infectious diseases as the world's leading cause of death and disability.

The enormity of this problem has led to the creation of the framework convention on tobacco control, in the first ever global public health treaty. Canada lead in the development of this treaty and ratified it in May 2005.

Here in the Northwest Territories, we have implemented several tobacco reduction initiatives, guided by Action on Tobacco, our territorial tobacco control strategy.

Today in our visitors' gallery are students and staff of Ecole St. Joseph School and Range Lake North School. These young people are part of the "Don't be a Butthead - Be Smoke Free" campaign, which the department launched in May 2004.

---Applause

This campaign reaches children before they become smokers and strengthens their resolve to remain smoke free for life. The Butthead campaign has travelled to all communities in the NWT and has received enthusiastic support. More than 2,000 youth have made the commitment to remain smoke free.

I congratulate my two colleagues, Mr. Menicoche and Mr. Yakeleya, who made a commitment to quit when they heard about the Butthead campaign. They have been smoke free for more than seven months.

---Applause

I would also like to recognize other Members of this Legislature who have previously quit smoking including Ms. Lee, Mr. Braden and Minister McLeod. You are excellent role models.

---Applause

We applaud the commitment shown by so many young people. By this time next year, I hope that the Members will have joined the growing numbers of legislators across Canada, who have enacted laws to control the devastating impact of tobacco use and advance the goal of de-normalizing tobacco use in our society.

Our youth are counting on you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 13-15(4): Learner Success

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is an exciting time of year, especially for learners across the Northwest Territories as they graduate from our schools and Aurora College. I have attended several graduation ceremonies in the last few weeks and I would like to congratulate all of our many northern graduates.

Whether they are completing high school or a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree, seeing successful graduates is a sign of the health of our learning system and a demonstration of the commitment of our students and their families to educational achievement.

I believe we are now seeing the positive results of grade extensions in the smaller communities, implemented in the late 1990s. In regions across the NWT, we are seeing more young people staying in school in their communities and graduating.

In the Sahtu region, an exciting milestone has been reached this year. For the 2004-05 year, there will be graduates from every school in the region. Colville Lake will have its first graduate this year, after having started their high school program just three years ago.

---Applause

The region is also graduating an all-time high of 26 students this year, 10 from Deline alone.

---Applause

I am honoured to be attending that graduation ceremony with the MLA for Sahtu on June 9th. Elders, leaders and families can all share in the success of keeping young people in school and supporting them to graduate.

I would like to profile a few of our successful and innovative programs that will contribute to our growing rate of graduations across the NWT:

- The Lutselk'e Bush School, which combines conventional high school curricula with learning on the land, has proven to be one particularly successful example of new initiatives in the NWT. The school is comprised of a small group of students, one teacher and two elders. All of those involved live in a group of cabins for two-and-a-half months at a time. While at the camp, the students take instruction in high school courses. At the same time, they assist in the day-to-day operations of the camp. This alternative to standard classroom instruction was developed as another option for those students who had previously not been successful in their secondary education. Though the program is still young, it has already proven effective. This program speaks to the success we can have when we combine education programs with traditional approaches to learning.
- In Fort Providence, a night school program was designed for students who had previously dropped out of high school. Of the 13 students who began the program this year, 11 passed their English Language Arts departmental exams and have now finished their secondary schooling. Madam Speaker, this is a remarkable achievement for these 11 individuals who had the courage and commitment to try again and achieve educational success. I would like to commend all of the dedicated partners in this project including school principal Lois Philip and adult educator Margaret Field.

Madam Speaker, at the college level, we have also seen a large number of graduates this spring. These individuals have chosen to follow career paths that are essential to the continued success of our territory, ranging from trades to nursing and teaching. Particularly important to success in this area has been partnerships between the college, aboriginal groups and business and industry. These arrangements have allowed many students to make a smooth transition from post-secondary education to employment.

While these are only a small handful of the many successes that we have seen this year, I think that they provide an effective example of the excellent collaboration between schools, the college, parents, communities and students. This work will ensure that graduates are prepared for the future and that the quality of education available in the North continues to improve. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

Minister's Statement 14-15(4): Northwest Territories Tourism Month

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, beginning this year, the month of June will be designated as Tourism Month in the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Tourism Month will celebrate the tourism industry of the Northwest Territories and highlight the importance of this vital sector to our economy. Similarly, the Tourism

Industry Association of Canada has designated June as Tourism Month in Canada and national celebrations will be seen across the country.

Tourism dollars are new dollars to the economy and flow into each community through the tourism operators and the various local service providers. In the 2003-04 tourism season, \$93 million were spent by over 56,000 visitors to the Northwest Territories. Specifically, summer visitors totalled 27,000 people who spent over \$17 million. Over 1,000 hunters contributed approximately 15 million new dollars to the territorial economy. Japanese aurora visitors totalled 10,000 and brought in a total of \$12 million. Preliminary numbers for the 2004-05 season indicated \$99 million were spent by 63,000 visitors to the Northwest Territories.

Madam Speaker, the creation of the new Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment gives tourism a new profile and our government is committed to enhancing our tourism industry. The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to working with the tourism industry in product development, researching markets, providing statistics on visitor trends, providing funds for tourism training programs and providing marketing funds to the tourism association for targeted destination marketing initiatives.

Madam Speaker, consultation on proposed changes to the Travel and Tourism Act have been completed. The proposed revisions are designed to streamline the regulatory process and make other housekeeping amendments to the act. The amendments are supported by a majority of stakeholders, including NWT Tourism. I am committed to moving forward on these recommendations this fiscal year.

NWT Tourism, in partnership with Industry, Tourism and Investment, has planned promotional activities to highlight the Northwest Territories as a prime tourism destination. A brochure celebrating tourism in the Northwest Territories will be distributed to households throughout the territory. A poster series, called "Tourism Counts," highlighting various aspects of tourism, will be provided to municipalities, aboriginal organizations and tourism operators.

Madam Speaker, the Japanese continue to show a growing interest in aurora viewing and other NWT tourism products. In July 2005, the Northwest Territories will be showcased in Japan during a weeklong event at Expo 2005 in Aichi Prefecture. The GNWT has formed important Expo 2005 partnerships with tourism operators and interested businesses, to level private sector investment and to develop a broad program of activity to promote the NWT to Japanese and international attendees. The private sector has committed approximately \$300,000 towards NWT events at Expo 2005. Day and evening events through the last week in July will host a broad range of VIP guests and highlight tourism, diamonds and arts and culture of the Northwest Territories.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the tourism operators, outfitters and the many service providers of the Northwest Territories for their dedication to this vital industry. I thank them for a job well done and confirm my commitment to continue to address the challenges and opportunities of this important sector of our economy. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Fairness And Responsiveness Of Government Officials

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, at my last constituency meeting in my Tu Nedhe community of Deninu Kue earlier this month, I'm glad to say the meeting went really well and that the 25 to 30 people who attended the constituency meeting raised a lot of concerns. Many of these concerns are ongoing issues related to government programs and delivery of those programs.

Madam Speaker, the majority of concerns raised by my constituents are related to housing and Municipal and Community Affairs and, more specifically, on issues of fairness and responsiveness. The issue of fairness and the delivery of housing programs both at the local and territorial levels has always been met with disregard for both levels of government and leads to growing frustration by my constituents about accountability and transparency principles this government claims to be committed towards delivering to northern residents.

But, Madam Speaker, the more important concern regarding responsiveness is the only one I would like this government to really take notice on, Madam Speaker. On many instances in the past there have been many issues that we thought to be settled between constituents and the various government department officials, be it through the telephone conversation, the one-on-one meetings, letters or just a simple handshake.

Madam Speaker, has the continued lack of response by this government and the feedback suddenly made a simple handshake exactly what it is, just a simple handshake? I hope not, Madam Speaker. Something that has been considered as binding and lawful only a few years ago is suddenly becoming meaningless to many who lived and had faith in this practice of agreement all of their lives while living here in the North. But because of this government's inaction on many important matters, people are beginning to lose trust and confidence in the simple gesture that we all take for granted every day.

Madam Speaker, in summary I would like to challenge each government department to meeting firm commitments to resolving and carrying through the commitments many past and present Ministers make to my constituents and other northern residents so that the people can retain and react with some level of confidence, pride and trust in our government and its officials when they visit their community, make promises and seal the deal by shaking everybody's hand. Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Preservation Of Aboriginal Languages

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I believe that the preservation of language is a critical issue for aboriginals of the Northwest Territories. A sustainable territory requires the sustainability of the land, the languages and the cultures of the aboriginal peoples of the Northwest Territories. There are aboriginal groups across North America, including Canada, producing aboriginal language developmental toys that reflect their unique language and culture as part of their language preservation and revitalization programs. One can't overemphasize the importance of having our own development toy that reflects the characteristics and languages of specific aboriginal groups from the Northwest Territories.

Madam Speaker, for the most part, interactive development toys have not been available for aboriginal languages because the voice of the computer cartridges used to make these toys were only available for languages of over 25 million speakers. However, a Cherokee entrepreneur of the United States adapted a toy for aboriginal languages designed to teach toddlers and young children the basic sounds and words of the language. It helps to preserve the problem of aboriginal language loss by encouraging the aboriginal youth to learn and to speak their native language, but also learning second and even third languages.

The toy is designed with brightly coloured figures including animals and trees that activate the sound of a voice speaking in any aboriginal language. The toys also adapt to ensure that it's reflective of the specific aboriginal group it's intended for. For example, the Inuvialuit language could be used also.

Madam Speaker, I propose that the NWT language version of these toys be developed and funded under the Northern Strategy because it is consistent with the strategy's main goals and objectives, which include to ensure that the importance of the language, traditional knowledge and the way of life is recognized and encouraged. These toys promote language and culture and are developed to recognize the diversity of language and culture and help to preserve the present for future generations. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Move Of Territorial Treatment Centre From Yellowknife To Hay River

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wanted to speak again today about the transfer of the Territorial Treatment Centre out of Yellowknife, an issue that I feel is being seriously downplayed by the Minister of Health and Social Services and by this government. I believe that the cavalier attitude and actions of this government in dealing with the transfer of this vital program is shameful. I have heard from employees, families and, most recently, organizations that, unlike our government, actually have an interest in what is best for the clients.

In my time here as a Member of this House, I have become aware of how woefully inadequate the services for children and families that face behavioural, emotional and mental health issues really are. The proposed transfer of the Territorial Treatment Centre is a microcosm of the real problems that residents face with this government. Why should it take three years for a family to get their child and themselves some help? Why does a family have to put their child on a wait list for respite care? How does a parent tell their child that they are number 11 on a list for a buddy to help them attend summer camp?

Madam Speaker, we have such a long way to go in terms of addressing the needs of our children and families that find themselves faced with these challenges. The transfer of the Territorial Treatment Centre looks like it's happening for all the wrong reasons. The government is taking a huge step backwards by dismantling and moving one of the only good, quality programs it has in dealing with children with behavioural, emotional and other mental health issues.

The Minister has yet to identify how the transfer of this program is going to impact clients, the children and families that are referred to it. The Minister has said in this House that the transfer will not impact the delivery of the program. Madam Speaker, I believe the Minister is absolutely wrong in his assessment. All I can see in this is backward thinking and opportunism at its finest at the expense of the children and the families that we're trying to help.

It is obvious to me that the government has not done its own due diligence in this decision and is that too much to ask? I implore the Minister and the government to do the right thing. Find another use for Dene K'onia. Leave the Territorial Treatment Centre alone. I'll have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Health Care Services For Elders

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

Madam Speaker, I have been approached by numerous elders and most of them have been expressing concerns with inadequate health care services, especially, Madam Speaker, in the community of Wrigley. Wrigley has not had a regular nurse or other medical service staff for quite some time. For an isolated community, this is not acceptable.

When elders come to talk to me about these problems and are obviously in such pain and discomfort, I cannot help feeling frustrated with the current situation of medical services. Elders have to travel to Fort Simpson when they are not in the best of health and strength, Madam Speaker. One elder who is very special in the community has had knee complications and is in pain and waiting for an appointment. This elder asked me when his next appointment will be. Why is he asking me, Madam Speaker?

During special events and feasts, the communities always ask the elders to go first. This is the aboriginal way, to make elders feel as comfortable as possible. That is why my constituents and myself have such an issue with the long waiting time for very painful conditions.

Another elder has pneumonia and needs medical staff in the community. There is still a need for a nurse in Wrigley and the GNWT should consider reinstating one. During breakup and freeze-up, the visits to Wrigley seem to be more sporadic. Our government guarantees them service, but it is not providing it during these very important times.

Many constituents feel the regular visits are becoming less frequent and there is always some kind of reason, such as weather, illness and scheduling, for postponing the medical visits.

While in Fort Simpson or other medical centres, travelling patients are scheduled as any other patients, often waiting in airports or wandering the streets while in pain. They should be given priority so they can go home to be comfortable with their families.

A constituent has expressed their opinion that health care funding from the federal government earmarked specifically for aboriginal peoples is not all going to their intended purposes and a large portion is going to central administration and not helping elders, as the one in this community.

Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Member's 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. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, honourable colleagues. Madam Speaker, if the GNWT does not take action now, it would be unacceptable if there was a serious, unfortunate event that was to occur. Health care must be one of the highest priorities of this government. The provision of regular health care for our communities and constituents must be a priority of this government. It, too, I believe, must be declared a necessary service to the NWT, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Value Of Youth Exchange

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Madam Speaker. During the First and Second World Wars a group of very dedicated American field service people volunteered as ambulance brigades overseas. At the end of the Second World War, they decided that the cause of peace and world harmony would be very well served if they paid attention to the families of the young people that they met while in Europe and created exchanges for them with their own families in America.

Shortly after the Second World War, I think 10 countries participated in an international exchange organization that has now grown to encompass, I believe, 54 countries around the world. Twenty-five years ago, this

organization, now called AFS Interculture Canada, got its start here in this country and as far as I can figure, about 22 years ago, Madam Speaker, it got its start here in Yellowknife. We've had the opportunity and the great pleasure of hosting in those 22 years or so more than 150 students and we have sent, I think, about half that number out into the world. It is a life-changing experience, Madam Speaker, not only for the young people who engage in this, but for the families around the world and certainly here in Yellowknife, who take on the challenge of hosting these people and helping them know about Canada.

This year we are pleased to host eight students with the AFS program here in Canada and our schools also welcome students from other programs, including World Heritage. A bit later on this afternoon, Madam Speaker, all of those students will be introduced.

This couldn't happen without the generosity of the families here, but also of our school system and with the students with us this year at Sir John Franklin High School. Also, Madam Speaker, with the unwavering support of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment who, like those volunteers from many years ago, believed in the value of youth and world exchange and a better world tomorrow. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Francophone Science Fair

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Schools throughout the NWT and Canada are forced to deal with restrictions and financial restraints. Many of the activities and events that students take part in today are due to the tireless efforts of individual staff members and parents advisory committees and volunteers, as well as many business organizations that all provide a role in providing opportunities for students and young people.

Today I'd like to recognize a special case, a good news story. Madam Speaker, this past March there was a science fair held here in Yellowknife and some 80 students from Grade 3 and up from Ecole Borealis in Hay River in conjunction with Ecole Alain St. Cyr here in Yellowknife, held a special science fair that was not scheduled on their typical school year calendar. This was done on short notice, quick planning, and it brought the science fair here to Yellowknife so the francophone students could have a little community project together.

This turned out to be an extremely positive experience, and the students afforded this opportunity had a chance to meet with their peers, visit special places like L'Aquilon, which is the French newspaper, visit Radio Taiga, which is the French radio station, an experience that the Hay River students don't usually get. It was a wonderful opportunity that they could share this culturally beneficial and intellectual opportunity here in Yellowknife together. This event wasn't planned, but I can tell you right now it's being discussed for the future, because it was such an array of opportunities for the kids that they are not able to often experience.

Madam Speaker, the Legion played a role in hosting the science fair and I heard it was standing room only on many occasions to see some of the opportunities there that the young students were doing. I want to say a special thanks to those children who made the trek, as well as those who live here in Yellowknife, for dedicating a certain amount of enthusiasm to the innovation of science. A special congratulations to those scientific minds who will be going forward to represent the NWT in Vancouver for their skills in science.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, I want to say that some constituents came forward and mentioned that this was an enormous experience that the children had and it was a big deal to all the kids that attended. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Proposed Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in case it hasn't been made absolutely clear by now, I'd like to state categorically once again that the proposed move of the Territorial Treatment Centre to anywhere out of Yellowknife is a very poorly planned and, as one of my Newfoundland friends will say, a foolish idea that must be stopped in its tracks today, Madam Speaker. It should be stopped at least until the Minister and the Cabinet gives us clear answers to some real basic and important questions that we are entitled. We being not only the MLAs of this House or even the staff at the Territorial Treatment Centre, but more importantly in the best interest of the children who are being treated there.

Madam Speaker, the children who are being treated there are in a very sophisticated, comprehensive, well-planned, well-developed clinical setting. These children suffer from very severe emotional, behavioural and mental issues that they are under treatment for. It has taken years, at least 10 years, for this program to be developed in this city by the very fragile putting together of various specialists and professionals who can address the needs of these children. So far the information that we're giving in this House does not indicate to us in any way that the Cabinet and the Minister have given due regard to the interest and needs of these children.

I'd like to ask also, Madam Speaker, why is it that the Social Programs committee, which I chair, was not given any notice whatsoever? I could tell you that the only time I got to know about this project was when I read it in the paper. There has never been any plan about the adequacy of the building or how these children are going to be treated if they get moved out of the system that they are being treated under. I'd like to know if the Cabinet had good information as to all aspects of the treatment and the facility that they are under. I would like to know if ECE -- I know for sure that they have not -- have consulted the educational system in Hay River or anywhere else about whether or not they can absorb these very high-need students and be able to provide the necessary service that they need.

Madam Speaker, I would like to pursue all of these questions further later today. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Species At Risk Act

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak in regard to the Species at Risk Act. During a northern leaders conference in Inuvik, Members of Cabinet and some Regular Members met with the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and the Tlicho leadership to discuss the Species at Risk Act. Madam Speaker, the leaders at this meeting are frustrated with the amount of time this government is taking to move forward with the Species at Risk Act.

Madam Speaker, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources committed to move forward with this SARA by holding a meeting with the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Tlicho and Sahtu leaders to discuss the SARA and to find a common ground to move forward. It has been over a month-and-a-half since the commitment by the Minister. When will the meeting take place to move forward with the SARA legislation? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement On Congratulations To Mackenzie Delta Graduates

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: (English not provided)

Good afternoon, my friends. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a number of graduates in my riding. Over the past few years, the number of high school graduates in the Mackenzie Delta has increased. More and more graduates are walking down the aisle and picking up their diplomas. This positive atmosphere has a lot to do with our teachers in our communities, and the will of the students to strive to better themselves and to be role models to future graduates.

In Fort McPherson we have a total of 16 graduates that will receive their diplomas on June 10th. In Aklavik we have eight students graduating on June 17th. There are also two graduates that come from Tsiigehtchic that are finishing their Grade 12 in Inuvik. I want to recognize and congratulate the 26 Grade 12 graduates that come from the Mackenzie Delta and encourage them each to continue their endeavours and future education, but also ask them to continue their lifetime learning and strive for the best you can by way of receiving your diploma and education and also receiving a better job, a better life and also to better our communities.

Without our graduates, without our students, we cannot take advantage of self-government, oil and gas developments, or opportunities that come our way. I encourage those graduates to continue furthering their

education and take advantage of these opportunities. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a couple of folks that I would like to introduce here today: Federico Feijoo, an exchange student who is with us today from Argentina...

---Applause

He is hosted by the Rentmeister family, constituents of mine; as well, Barbara Kurz from Germany. Welcome, Barbara.

---Applause

Barbara is hosted by the Ramsay family. As well, Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize during this session we have two Pages from the constituency of Kam Lake: Amelia Debogorski, she is right there. With Amelia is Sarah Topilikon. I would like to welcome both of them. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. For some great coincidence our exchange students who are in Yellowknife this year are nicely divided among all seven Yellowknife ridings. In my riding of Great Slave, I would like to introduce Mr. Scott Alltree from New Zealand who is hosted by the Miller family.

---Applause

Welcome, Scott.

MADAM SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have two sets of visitors to acknowledge today. First I will acknowledge the constituents of Chuck Tolley and Muriel Tolley, and Muriel's mother, Vera Forde, from Saskatoon is visiting. I believe they are just above here.

---Applause

Madam Speaker, I, too, have an exchange student that lives in my riding. This exchange student is hosted by the Glowach family, so I wish to say thank you to them. The young man's name is Alan Chiang from Hong Kong.

---Applause

I would like to say hi to Alan in Cantonese, so I would say...(English not provided)

---Applause

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have two people that I would like to recognize. First, Szilvia Dubovay from Hungary who has been a constituent of mine for the last year and is hosted by the Pellerin family.

---Applause

I would also like to recognize my constituent Major Karen Hoeft. I have introduced her before and I can assure all the Members that not only does Major Hoeft listen to every statement that Ministers and Members make, but she also reads every bill as it is approved at first reading. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Minister Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In keeping with the Member for Great Slave's statement, I would like to recognize two AFS exchange students in my riding: Johan Lundeberg who is from Sweden;

---Applause

Gustava Cabrera from Paraguay. Both students, I understand, are staying with the Harbichts. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am a former graduate of Sir John Franklin High School, but when I went to school there we didn't have such an extensive International Exchange Program. I think it is a fantastic program. It adds so much global sophistication and openness to the school and I am so pleased to have them attending our Assembly today. It is especially my pleasure to recognize someone from Austria, a beautiful country known for classical music, and I hope I say her name okay; Pia Zischka. Welcome. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. One of the visiting students has been hosted by the Bannon family in my constituency, and that is Etienne Miquel from France.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: With the indulgence of the House, may I just recognize that the exchange student in my riding is staying with Linda and Abe Theil and I would like to thank them. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would just like to

add that it is indeed a pleasure to have the international exchange students in the gallery today. We hope you have thoroughly enjoyed your stay in Yellowknife.

At this time on our Agenda we have item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 51-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre School Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my questions today will be to the Cabinet and the government with regard to the proposed transfer of TTC to outside of Yellowknife. Madam Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. We, the Yellowknife Members, have been learning a lot about what this program is about and one of the new things we have learned is that the local educational system has a very intimate and intense involvement with the children who are housed there. Although they have their own classroom there, it is being administered by the Catholic school board. The Catholic schools and all the public schools are involved in incorporating these children into the educational program. I would like to think that when a government makes the decision that impacts the lives and future of as many as eight children, that the government would look into what kind of educational impact it would have on the children. I would like to know what work the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and his staff has done to take care of the needs of these students. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Return To Question 51-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre School Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the proposed move of the facility is still at least a year-and-a-half away. This still has to go through the business planning process, so at this point Education, Culture and Employment hasn't actually done anything to plan the move.

I can tell you that ECE funds Yellowknife Catholic schools for providing services to that facility as a magnet facility, just as we fund YK No. 1 for the services that they provide to Allison MacAteer House. If that facility were to move to another community, that funding, the magnet funding, would also move to provide the schools in that region with the funding to provide the services.

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

Supplementary To Question 51-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre School Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think the troubling aspect of the debate in this House about this issue is that the focus is so much on the money and the jobs being created, which is not a small thing. After all, we make decisions about how to spend money and such. Today, I think I was trying to indicate in my Member's statement that we need to focus on the children that are

being treated there because of very, very severe issues that they need to be helped with.

These educators are not just an agent that gets government money and just runs this program. These educators are also the experts about educating children and they are aware of what issues these children are being treated with and what they need clinically, psychologically, everything. I would think that Cabinet, when they were deciding to move this, would have looked at what this would all mean. I don't think it is good enough to say we are going to take care of that in the future. I would like to know what sort of pre-op work has been done. What information did the Minister bring to the Cabinet table in discussing this issue? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 51-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre School Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It wasn't an issue that was brought to the Cabinet table by Education, Culture and Employment. It was a proposal by the Minister of Health and Social Services. However, I would say Education, Culture and Employment is prepared to ensure the children, no matter which community they are located in, receive the appropriate services. When I talked about the money, I was talking about making sure that we had the money to pay the salaries of the people that would be required to provide those services. That will follow the children.

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

Supplementary To Question 51-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre School Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Short supplementary. I would like to think that when Cabinet Ministers look at transferring a program like this they would work with more information than just transfer this. I like to think that the Education Minister would have brought to the table what it would mean to the kids there, because obviously the Cabinet and the government are the caretakers. I would like to know what information, if any, has he got thus far about what kind of education program these students will be needing. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 51-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre School Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The education programs are delivered in the Northwest Territories by divisional education councils. They are funded to deliver that program. In this case, the appropriate divisional education council will be funded to deliver the program. The expectation is that appropriate programs are provided no matter what needs the kids have. That is why we have an inclusive schooling policy. It doesn't matter where a child is in the Northwest Territories, it is the responsibility of the divisional education council to make sure that they provide appropriate programming for that child; whether that child is in Hay River, Yellowknife, Inuvik or Fort Smith. It makes no difference. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 51-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre School Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is obvious that the Minister doesn't know the full information about this, because we are not dealing with special needs children who need inclusive programs here. We are talking about children who are far beyond the needs of inclusive schooling. Does the Minister know that these students, eight of them, cannot be absorbed into one school? The benefit of having them in Yellowknife is that they can be chosen to go to any of the seven schools. There is no way one school could absorb all of these students, because they have such high needs. Does the Minister of Education know that? Why does he not know that, if he doesn't know that? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Dent.

Further Return To Question 51-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre School Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The population in that facility today may be totally different in 18 months, so I can't speak for where the kids may be able to go in 18 months. I can tell you, as far as I know, Hay River has more than two schools.

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

Question 52-15(4): Tourism Revenue Kept In The NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, from the Minister's statement on tourism in the Northwest Territories, he made reference to the millions of dollars being spent in the Northwest Territories. I wonder if the Minister could tell me how many dollars were kept in the Northwest Territories. They may have spent millions of dollars in the Northwest Territories but in a rough estimate, how many dollars were kept in the Northwest Territories as a result of the figures that he has given us? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 52-15(4): Tourism Revenue Kept In The NWT

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure I'm clear or maybe I just don't understand the question. The money generated, the additional GDP generated in the Northwest Territories, I have given the Member those figures in the statement. Those are some projections for the 2004-05 season. We believe that the vast majority of that money stays in the Northwest Territories. Obviously there is some leakage. I don't think that we are able to quantify what the leakage would be, but it would be no different than any other jurisdiction, I don't believe, in that most of the money probably stays and is spent and circulates in that jurisdiction. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 52-15(4): Tourism Revenue Kept In The NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister has answered the question partially. I will follow up later on with that question privately. The question I guess I want to ask the Minister also, in terms of the creation of the new Department of ITI, and giving industry a new profile within this government and within the industry of tourism, what is the government committing to do to work with the aboriginal governments in terms of giving the profile of industry in the Northwest Territories? What type of commitment has he given the aboriginal governments in the regions to heighten the new profile with ITI?

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Bell.

Further Return To Question 52-15(4): Tourism Revenue Kept In The NWT

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. One of the things that we sought out to do when we sat down to do our analysis of roles and responsibilities of the department, vis-a-vis the industry association, was to better understand who is doing what currently, to talk about who should be doing what and to address some gaps.

One of the gaps that we felt in tourism in the Northwest Territories was regional representation; in fact, regional impact on the ground across all regions of the Northwest Territories. We think that there are compelling arguments to be made for tourism money to be spent everywhere and that everybody should have an equal chance to develop their industry. We think that a lot of product development needs to take place in many of our smaller communities. We are proposing a new tourism funding model. We are talking to industry about that; I have met with committee about that as well. One of the pillars is to ensure regional representation on a new destination marketing organization.

We haven't, I guess I would say, crossed the t's and dotted the i's yet, Madam Speaker, but we are working on a model that we think will be as representative as possible of both sectors and regions. I think that is a very positive step. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 52-15(4): Tourism Revenue Kept In The NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The funding model that the Minister has alluded to, also speaking to the tourism industry I guess my question is not so much the tourism industry but what types of discussions is he having with the aboriginal governments in the regions in terms of this model? It may have some consequences to the land claim settlements in some of the regions that have settled the comprehensive land claims. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Bell.

Further Return To Question 52-15(4): Tourism Revenue Kept In The NWT

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We believe it is an enhancement of the current model and will allow for additional funding to flow into regions, but we talked about working with our tourism partners, by sector, and with regional and community organizations in order to make sure that tourism money is able to best hit the ground. Obviously, we will be talking with aboriginal governments and the relevant organizations in the regions to talk about how we can best achieve that. So going forward as we sit down with committee and industry and have a better handle on what this model will look like, we will be meeting and discussing this with all the relevant stakeholders and regional organizations. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Bell. Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary To Question 52-15(4): Tourism Revenue Kept In The NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the point I would like to ask questions on is to the input from the regional organizations, more importantly the regional governments in the Sahtu, or the aboriginal governments that have a high stake in seeing tourism flow into our region. What can the Minister commit to in the next couple of months in terms of ensuring that the aboriginal governments will be part of this model that could be used in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Bell.

Further Return To Question 52-15(4): Tourism Revenue Kept In The NWT

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I can give the Member my assurance that this will be absolutely an inclusive model that people right across the Northwest Territories will be able to take advantage of. The tourism sector will be broadly represented. All communities and regions will have representation in the new model. In terms of new money, we are talking about going forward with the business planning process and will handle that in due course with communities to talk about what will be appropriate. Obviously there are some decisions to be made as a government and as a Cabinet. In the coming months, as we sit down to do our business planning and it gets underway with committees in earnest in September, we will have a lot more discussion on how we should approach this. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Question 53-15(4): Move Of Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Minister of Health and Social Services on the issue of the removal of the TTC facility for behaviourally disturbed youngsters to Hay

River. Madam Speaker, as my colleagues have already indicated and we've done so over the last few days here, the increasing information and substantiation that we are getting for the consequences that there will be for the children, for their families and for a wider range of services and frontline social agencies here in the city. There are at least four or five that have been brought to my attention that will be directly impacted or involved in this. It takes a community to raise a child and that's what this centre has been trying to build for the last 10 years, a community of service for these children. Understanding that this centre is one of the treatment success stories for children in the Northwest Territories, why does the Minister insist on going ahead with what will surely amount to a very serious erosion to a very successfully built up part of our infrastructure for children? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Return To Question 53-15(4): Move Of Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Bosco Homes provides a very high level of program service for children in Fort Smith and in TTC. As I have indicated repeatedly over the sitting of this Assembly, the decision has been made to relocate the program. The determination is that the program can be transferred and can operate without any erosion. The service will still be there. It's a territorial program open to all the children in the Northwest Territories. It will continue to provide the service, educationally and socially, that it currently does provide right now. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 53-15(4): Move Of Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Madam Speaker, we really are at a standoff at this point. We must come back to the whole premise of when a major change is made to a piece of social delivery or piece of social delivery infrastructure, that there are significant consequences. The Minister will not accept this, but we are seeing and hearing an overwhelming body of information and very sincere expressions from professionals about what this will cause. Madam Speaker, our point to the Minister has been to show us the plan, to show that the department understands and is knowledgeable about the consequences. We have not seen that. When is the Minister going to put that in front of Members and in front of the community, so we can all see that his claims are indeed going to be substantiated? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 53-15(4): Move Of Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am acutely aware that any

change in service delivery that affects communities has impact, especially in the involved communities. This program is going to continue to be delivered by Bosco Homes. They are going to continue to provide the high level of service that they have provided in Fort Smith all these years. The Premier stood up in the House yesterday and indicated that by the end of this day we will have packages for the Members that will lay out the documentation that got us to this point and that will be ready as promised. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 53-15(4): Move Of Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Madam Speaker, this is not good government.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Bad.

MR. BRADEN: We have established a convention and a belief as part of the process of consensus that we will work with each other on significant changes like this. I will say it again and again and again, we were denied the access, involvement and input to this kind of process in this decision. It was, indeed, something that was out there as a very viable idea. We came back into this House just last week and we find out that this is a done deal. This is where this government has let us down and it's letting this community down. The government must rescind its desire or its program to move this facility until the community is convinced that the consequences can be managed. Will the Minister do so? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 53-15(4): Move Of Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I can appreciate the Member of Yellowknife Great Slave's concerns, very specific and germane to his constituency. However, as a Member of this government and as a Cabinet Minister, we have a responsibility to think territorial-wide and to take careful, measured decisions that we think will positively benefit all of the residents, including the children. We have done that in this case. We have given a clear signal of what we intend to do. We have indicated that there will be a period of time to transition this with renovations and such over the next 18 months. We will be coming forward in the business plans with more specifics. We will follow through on that to go through the process. From a territorial-wide perspective, it's our opinion that this is a good decision, a very viable decision, a program that can be adequately and well run in Hay River by the current contractor who has a long track record of providing a high level of service. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 53-15(4): Move Of Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Can the Minister advise the House, Madam Speaker, of the process and arrangements for ascertaining how that contractor will be selected and, Madam Speaker, how the other significant supports that will be required from the community such as the involvement of the local school authority, the local medical authority, will be built into this continuum of care that a facility like this needs? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 53-15(4): Move Of Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, one must be clear that Hay River is one of the largest communities outside of Yellowknife and it has a very high level of educational facilities. It has a very high level of health care services. It's about a half-hour or 40 minutes across the lake to Yellowknife to access specialist services that may be here at Stanton. Very clearly, we will be working with the involved agencies to make sure that the transition is a smooth one.

I want to point out, once again, that Hay River has a history of providing service to children that goes back many, many years, far longer than 10. I have been involved now with Health and Social Services in this capacity, as well as a former employee, and that goes back to the '70s. I know that back then, Hay River at that time provided a high level of service to children. In this case, they will continue to carry on that fine tradition, I am sure. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. At this time, I would like to use my prerogative as chair and the Speaker to recognize in the gallery the presence of one of our Member's mothers from Tulita, Laura Lennie. Also with Mr. Yakeleya is his partner, Cheryl. Welcome to the gallery.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The more I learn about this situation about the proposal to move the TTC out of Yellowknife, the more concerned and alarmed I am that due diligence was not done and consultation was not done. Just as recently as today, I found out that on the educational side, for the needs of the clients at the TTC, there was no consultation with Education. ECE had really no knowledge that this was going to happen when the Cabinet Minister was sitting in a meeting making a decision on this back in March. His department had no idea of it. I would like to know how that happens. It shouldn't happen.

The Minister has some explaining to do. The first question I have is why has it taken him almost a week to put together this mysterious and elusive business plan or

consultation or review or anything that was done by his department? Why do we have to sit over here for almost a week waiting for some answers? I would like the Minister to answer that question. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Return To Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, earlier my colleague from Kam Lake made some unfortunate comments where he spoke in an absolute way about the fact that Health and Social Services obviously didn't care about children. I just want to point out for the record that there are over 1,200 employees who work for Health and Social Services plus many contractual employees through NGOs and other service agencies, the majority of whom deal with children on a daily basis. They have devoted their lives to working with children and are very caring and committed people. It's an unfortunate characterization that I want to point out is not the case.

With regard to the information, it's coming as promised. I have given the information that you will see will hopefully be corroborated to your satisfaction in the documents that lay out the process. There is no four-inch stack of paper. You have asked for a chronology and some background information. That will be provided today as promised.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Obviously, I think the Minister just stated that he hasn't done any consultation. ECE wasn't consulted. Regular Members weren't consulted. Who exactly was consulted or have the folks in his department been busy the last week just putting together a chronology of events? If that's all we are going to get, Madam Speaker, that's not good enough. I would like to say to the Minister, prove that moving the TTC to Hay River is the right move. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, clearly in this case, as the saying goes, the proof will be in the pudding. So we will move the program and it will be demonstrated that it was a good move. To speak ahead of time is hypothetical. I can also speak with some assurance that I could never, at this point, in my mind, be able to adequately convince the Members from Yellowknife that moving this program met their rigorous standing or their desire to make sure they protect their constituents. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. How could the Minister make the assertion that moving this program will have no impact on the clients when we haven't seen anything in terms of what the impact is going to be and the needs of the clients are going to be in terms of speech therapy, paediatric support, ideology, psychology and other educational needs? These children need responsiveness. They need action right now. If they are in a setting where they can't get that and they have to take a flight to Yellowknife and try to get squeezed into an appointment three months from now, that's not good enough, Madam Speaker. I would like the Minister to answer that question. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the majority of these children are going to come from communities outside of Yellowknife and many smaller communities, communities that may struggle just to have a nurse, let alone the range of services that we are discussing in this House that may be available in Yellowknife or Hay River. The services the children need will be available in Hay River or there will be arrangements made to access them in Yellowknife. If you look at the work plan and the plan for Health and Social Services for the next two years, the plan is to re-establishment rehabilitation teams that are going to service the territory. There will be one based in the South Slave, one based in Yellowknife, in addition to the people who are already here and there will be one based in Inuvik. It's going to have ideologists, speech pathologists, therapists, occupational therapists and such so that we can start providing those services better outside of Yellowknife. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he would be able to produce a report that was done last year by FSC on the structural integrity of the current TTC facility. Was his decision solely a political decision, or a decision based on a physical piece of infrastructure that is not worth fixing up? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there are a number of factors that were discussed over the last few days. Very clearly, the government, as I stated in this House, has a position and a policy on decentralization and looking at trying to

move things out of Yellowknife that is equitable, fair and spreads some of the government resources around. This program can be provided outside of Yellowknife. There is a community, Hay River, that has that capacity. The program is just going to be moved. It's not being dismantled. It's not being structurally changed. The contractor has indicated that they are very willing to work with us to provide that service. We've taken the steps to ensure that this will be done in a careful, measured way and we are going to follow through on that. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree with the Minister that the government could look at moving some jobs and some things outside of the capital city. I agree with decentralization as a principle of this government, but why would you do something with a program that affects children and families and most of the referrals are out of this region and north of the city of Yellowknife? I don't understand the rationale behind that. If you want to move government jobs, that's one thing, but when you start messing around with a program that is supposed to help children and families, then I have to take issue with that. I would like to follow up on what one of my colleagues was mentioning earlier. The information we were supposed to get, we are going to get that today. I thought I heard the Minister say that. Can he confirm that we will get the information he has today? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 54-15(4): Consultation Process For Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. For the record, we should be absolutely, categorically, unequivocally and starkly clear that we are not messing around with the program. We are moving the program as it exists to another community with the same contractor, with the same skills and with access to the same resources to do that. I want to point out the majority of children who access TTC are from outside of Yellowknife. We will provide the information as was promised, and if it's insufficient I am sure that I will be getting direct feedback from the Members and if it is insufficient we'll try to fill in what gaps the Members may think still exist. Thank you.

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

Question 55-15(4): Cost Of Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Although I wish I could ask a housing question today, I've been pressured to ask some TTC questions. So, Madam Speaker, I will be asking questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, in regard to the costs associated with moving the TTC in Yellowknife to Hay River. As all of us know, Dene K'onia is a jail, cinder block, bars; it's a jail.

So what is going to be the premium that he thinks is no big deal to transfer anything south or anywhere else out of Yellowknife? What is the total premium it's going to cost us to renovate the Dene K'onia so it's no longer a cinder block and bar facility, but it's a proper treatment centre for these youth? What is the total cost of this? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Miltenberger.

Return To Question 55-15(4): Cost Of Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this facility will be renovated with the money that was in the budget initially when TTC was here. An initial plan a number of years ago was to renovate this one, and that figure is in the \$3 million range. That money will be used to renovate Dene K'onia, and the estimates that we have from Public Works and Services are that it can be done for that money.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 55-15(4): Cost Of Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I say this with respect, but I wish the Minister had that type of vision maybe to open up our treatment centre here in Yellowknife. We don't have a Territorial Treatment Centre open. We could have spent that \$3.3 million or whatever the actual dollars are. Why don't we open a facility that this community is in desperate need of, because we have communities sending folks with problems to Yellowknife and they're getting them out of the community? The cost is unreasonable. So how much is it now going to cost us if we spend \$3.3 million in Hay River to renovate Dene K'onia now to fly these kids back to Yellowknife for that treatment as mentioned by one of the Members about the psych treatment, the ped treatment, the audiology treatment? How much extra a premium is this government willing to pay when we could have better spent this money by continuing to deliver a stable service here in Yellowknife? But no, we're going to spend more money. So how much more money of a premium are we going to spend? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 55-15(4): Cost Of Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it's not anticipated that we're going to be paying a premium in the range that my colleague seems to be implying. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 55-15(4): Cost Of Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Are the airlines giving free tickets to these kids that have to come to treatment? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 55-15(4): Cost Of Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, for that question, you'd have to talk to the airlines, I can assure you.

---Applause

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

Supplementary To Question 55-15(4): Cost Of Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't know if I have to say any more. It's proof that we haven't obviously thought this out. It's proof that the consultant hasn't spoken to the people who have been impacted. It's proof that no one has spoken to the families or the staff that run these programs, and its proof that we haven't spent any effort at looking what the full cost of this is going to be. Would the Minister commit to looking up that information and trying to prove to me and some of my good colleagues if this is worth it, if it is viable, if it is even smart? Would the Minister commit to investigating that this is a cost benefit to this government? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 55-15(4): Cost Of Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the implication would be that Cabinet just makes half-cocked decisions. There is a lot of work put into this. This issue has been on the table for many, many months and it has been made after careful and hard consideration, recognizing the implications. Yes, we've taken, I think, appropriate care and caution, and in a measured way made this decision. We'll provide the information, and we're going to come forward with more detail in the business plan, and we would be more than willing to have the discussion on that detail when we hit that process. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Before I proceed with the next person on the list for oral questions, I just want to caution Members in the language you are using today when you are characterizing the children who may be residents in the TTC at this time. It is a small group. This is a forum which they would have access to and I've heard comments like very, very severe challenges and other words used to characterize this. I know that you are not naming specific individuals, but I just want to be careful that we do not use language that offends those people who may be there for treatment.

This would be counterproductive for them to hear comments like that.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Question 56-15(4): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Madam Speaker. A good point you raised on the Dene K'onia future. My questions here today are to our Premier with respect to devolution negotiations that are going on and the current resource revenue sharing negotiations that are going on with the federal government alongside with the Aboriginal Summit in tow. One of the big barriers to the negotiation process, I guess, seems to be hindered by the lack of recognition by this government to legitimately or formally recognize the aboriginal governments in the NWT as legitimate public developing governments and new public governments as the case is with the Tlicho. We're going to assume great responsibility within their regions in the near future. I just want to know what the Premier is going to do to alleviate some of the bureaucratic foot dragging that has been going on with the negotiation process in order to accommodate a better partnership building arrangement between this government and the developing and newly formed aboriginal governments in the NWT. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The honourable Premier responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 56-15(4): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure what the Member is referring to when he's talking about foot dragging. We have negotiations that are going on between the federal government, territorial government and the aboriginal governments on devolution and resource revenue sharing. There are some differences of positions between each of the three parties. We don't refer to the aboriginal government or federal government as foot dragging. I think those are the characteristics of good negotiations that each party will put offers on the table, each party will be willing to compromise and think of creative ways. We certainly will do that. We don't issue ultimatums. We simply want to have good, solid negotiations happening. We have respect for the aboriginal governments as representatives of their people and at the table they are represented by the Aboriginal Summit, and I assume the aboriginal governments provide direction to the summit and we honour that.

As far as recognizing aboriginal governments as public governments, there is a process for doing that. In the case of the Tlicho, that was part of their settlement. In other situations we have negotiations going on whereby aboriginal governments are negotiating for what we refer to as self-government where they will take on the provision of public government services. I certainly welcome any aboriginal government to begin negotiations on self-government if they choose to go that route. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 56-15(4): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier, for that reply. I'll just rephrase that question. I guess the point I was trying to make is the territorial government just doesn't seem to be too enthusiastic about the whole devolution process as far as aboriginal governments that are going to be coming on stream here in the next 10 years. It seems like the bureaucracy of the GNWT is really digging their heels in when it comes to passing down or devolving a little bit of authority down to the community level, and to the regional level, and to the future aboriginal governments that are going to be coming on line. I think it's high time that this government actually started moving this process forward and getting the people in the public service to realize that, yes, they are going to have to move either to these regional governments, because these regional authorities are going to be incorporated into these aboriginal governments that are going to be coming on line, and I think it's time that we start this process today and not when the land claims agreements are signed.

So I just want to ask that maybe the Premier can make the commitment to the aboriginal governments, both new and the developing governments in our territory today, that he will make every conceivable effort to ensure that these aboriginal governments are viewed and respected in the same manner that any other provincial or territorial or international government is viewed by this government, and that the goal of achieving maybe an AIP in June perhaps would be a reality. But more importantly, achieving mutually agreeable, resourceful and respectful working relationships with future aboriginal governments so that we can all be proud of this government's achievement in just sort of getting the ball rolling in getting these aboriginal governments up and running. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 56-15(4): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have to distinguish between negotiations on devolution and negotiations on self-government. Devolution is the transfer of responsibility from the federal government to the territorial and aboriginal governments. We are ourselves, as a territorial government, and the aboriginal governments, at the table. We each have to negotiate our own positions and I think we have been very effective in doing that.

Self-government is another process altogether. Deline, Tulita, the Beaufort-Delta have entered into self-government negotiations and, as I said, I welcome any aboriginal government who chooses to do so, to begin the process of negotiating self-government. That is how they become public governments.

In the meantime, Madam Speaker, when we negotiate with the federal government, then we are negotiating as a territorial government, we are negotiating to take those responsibilities that are currently held by the federal government on as a public government. Should aboriginal

governments want to take those on, they can negotiate with us, but that's a separate process.

Madam Speaker, again I would like to emphasize that we have gone a long ways and without getting into all the detail of negotiations, there are some differences between ourselves and the aboriginal governments or the Aboriginal Summit on things like resource revenue sharing, and we have gone a long ways towards in fact arguing with the federal government to provide a percentage of resource revenues to the aboriginal governments even before they take on self-government. But there is only so far we can go because we have to use those revenues to be able to finance and fund the public institutions that we're responsible for, and until somebody else takes over the education system or the health system or the housing responsibilities, we can't negotiate all the money away or we'll be left with no ability to deliver our services. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 56-15(4): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the fact that this government doesn't want to negotiate all the dollars away. The point I want to make is that when the federal and territorial governments are negotiating resource revenue sharing and the aboriginal governments want their direct fiscal benefits coming from the federal level right to the aboriginal government in their respective regions, why is that an issue with this government if they want to help their aboriginal people who have been deprived of education, health, housing and help those aboriginal governments, bring those people up, those aboriginal resources that they have, bring them up to a level of capacity where they can actually start to move and take on more government responsibilities from this House and directly from the federal level. So is this a mandate of the devolution and resource revenue sharing agreement, or is this something that's totally separate as a self-government negotiating item? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Premier Handley.

Further Return To Question 56-15(4): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Speaker, through the devolution and resource revenue sharing negotiations, the transfer of any resource revenues is being negotiated to come to that government that is responsible for delivering the service. We deliver education, housing, justice and so on. We have to have the money transferred to us to be able to do that on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories.

As I said, Madam Speaker, if an aboriginal government wants to negotiate self-government, they just have to apply to us. Tulita just recently applied to us saying we want to negotiate self-government. I don't know exactly what programs they want to take over, but when a government does that we welcome it, we reply, we put a team together and we begin negotiations. So I encourage every government in the Northwest Territories, every aboriginal government, to begin the process of negotiating

self-government if they want to go that route and be responsible for delivery of programs. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 56-15(4): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I can understand the Premier's point that the resource revenue is going to go to the government that delivers the service. But if the service that they're delivering is not meeting the needs of these communities and these regions that are going to be operating under their own self-government, why is it an issue for this government to say well, yes, we're delivering the base issues of every service, we deliver that, but it just doesn't meet the community needs? That's what we've been told here for the last few months by all the communities in all the outlying regions except Yellowknife, that the needs aren't being met. So why is it a problem to give these regions dollars to help bring these services up to a better respectable level? Where the government can't deliver on housing for instance, why can't these aboriginal governments get their own money to deliver housing that this government can't deliver on? That's just one example I want to make, and I want to get what this government's view is on that perspective of resource revenue sharing. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Premier Handley.

Further Return To Question 56-15(4): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have a fixed amount of money to work with, and all of us here, as 19 MLAs, every year review a budget that will decide how much money is going to housing and education and so on. So whether that meets the needs fully is a value judgment that people will make because they may not be 100 percent happy with the service, but we are doing the best we can as 19 MLAs to provide the best service possible within the money we have.

If an aboriginal government, I'll say it again, if an aboriginal government wants money to deliver the service itself, then it should enter into self-government negotiations with us and we'd be happy to consider that kind of request.

As far as getting more money, that's why we're negotiating resource revenue sharing with the federal government. We want a share of the resources that are leaving this territory. We're not going to accept a bad deal; we're not going to make a bad deal. We want a deal that gives us more money to be able to more adequately meet the needs of the people in this territory. None of us, though, have a money tree. There's no such thing as a pile of money out there that people can just access. We're going to have to work together and continue to collaborate in our negotiations with the federal government, and we both win as aboriginal governments and as a territorial government. But again, Madam Speaker, I say if aboriginal governments want to take over housing or whatever program it may be, then let's start self-government negotiations. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Question 57-15(4): Drafting Legislation On The Species At Risk Act

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In my Member's statement, I spoke about the meeting between the honourable Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources and Industry, Tourism and Investment and the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Tlicho leaders. At this meeting, Madam Speaker, we touched briefly on the Wildlife Act, but the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Tlicho and Sahtu would like to put their efforts into drafting a Species at Risk Act. My question, Madam Speaker, is to the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, on whether his department is drafting legislation on this other act. If not, when will he direct his department to move on the act for discussion for the claimant groups? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. I'm sorry, for who? Okay. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 57-15(4): Drafting Legislation On The Species At Risk Act

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, first I'd like to acknowledge the key role the Member for Nunakput played in helping orchestrate this meeting where we had an opportunity, myself and Minister Bell as the Minister of Justice, to sit down with the people that my colleague mentioned to talk about the Species at Risk Act and the Wildlife Act.

I followed up on that meeting with a letter on May 18th to all of the involved parties. In that letter, I committed to three things. We committed to setting up a meeting in June, hopefully early June, but it looks like we might slip it into later June. We're going to move on the request for a collaborative drafting process that allows input from all the parties and then we'll prepare draft discussion documents for the meeting on the collaborative process and the proposed timelines for completing the work. Madam Speaker, that was sent out May 18th.

This morning at 8:00 we had a meeting, myself once again with some of the Environment and Natural Resources staff, the deputy, as well as the Minister of Justice and his people to talk about the collaborative process and the need to nail down the date in June to come to the table. During that meeting, we also received a document from the Wildlife Management Advisory Council where they had a draft memorandum that they thought would address some of the issues in terms of what a collaborative process could look like. So we've taken that document, as well, and we're reviewing it with Environment and Natural Resources and Justice is reviewing it with their staff. We intend to follow up very quickly to what they've proposed along with whatever suggestions we may have in addition to that. We are still committed to the June meeting and, if the Member will recollect, we're also committed to a very aggressive timeline to try to have a draft bill or a bill ready for first reading in this House in the fall session. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

Supplementary To Question 57-15(4): Drafting Legislation On The Species At Risk Act

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That's a lot of information in such a short time, since the meeting in April anyway. Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. We're talking about mid-June now. Has there been any contact with the other claimant groups with regard to how soon -- maybe I didn't understand -- but how soon the collaboration with them for the drafting of the act will take place? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 57-15(4): Drafting Legislation On The Species At Risk Act

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the way I envision this process unfolding, and I think based on the discussions we've had, would be the meeting we would have in June will allow the leadership to get together with some technical support people to discuss the details of the collaborative process and the time frames and those specific issues, and possibly sign off a memorandum of agreement or understanding on how we're going to proceed. At that point, the technical people and program people can start the process of moving on the Species at Risk Act, which it is my understanding has a considerable amount of work already done. Hopefully that work will be reviewed and approved and then we can move on to complete what's left to be done with a timeline to have a bill for first reading in the fall session. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

Supplementary To Question 57-15(4): Drafting Legislation On The Species At Risk Act

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think my next question is, if I understand correctly, was there a first draft of the legislative act before? Are there any flaws with it that the aboriginal groups didn't want to push forward with? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 57-15(4): Drafting Legislation On The Species At Risk Act

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there was an initial draft done some time ago on the Species at Risk Act, but once the issue of the collaborative process came up, it put a basic stop to any further kind of collaborative work. Then there was an election and new Cabinet and splitting of departments, all of which took time. We are now ready to move on this. In the interim, as well, the department has been putting its best efforts to work along with Justice to flush out what would be the content of the bill, but there have been no other drafts circulated other than that one. Once we have this meeting on the collaborative process and hopefully reach an agreement, then that work will all be put on the table as is outlined in this letter and we can move forward from there to get a draft bill or a bill completed. Thank you.

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

Question 58-15(4): Proposed Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to readdress my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to the proposed transfer. Madam Speaker, I must say I'm not impressed with the Minister somehow implying that the debate here is about Yellowknife versus Hay River and that any time we are questioning anything about this move that somehow...I don't think the competition is that. Madam Speaker, I believe that the Cabinet, every Member of government sitting across from us, has a duty to the children if they don't have a duty to the Members here or the employees who are working there or even the interested public. I like to know that I have enough information that shows me that the Cabinet Ministers have looked at all the necessary information, or at least adequate levels of information, when they made this decision; that they did not do it as a political move, as if these youth are empty vessels of chess pieces sitting on a board. They have lives with needs and those should have been looked at. So I'd like to know what exact information does he have about what these students' special needs are. What information can he give us? What information did he base his decision on? He hasn't given us any of that. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The question of the basis for the Minister's decision has been brought up now quite a number of times. I will refer the question to the Minister, but that question of basis and the information that's coming has probably been visited about eight to 10 times now over the last couple of days. I'll let Mr. Miltenberger answer that, but I'd just ask Members if they can think of something original. Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 58-15(4): Proposed Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, like the Members opposite, the Members on this side of the House are very concerned about the wellbeing of children. We're all parents or grandparents or both and we're very concerned about that. We've looked at this situation carefully. We looked at all aspects of it, in my opinion, and we've made a considered decision based on that.

Madam Speaker, I want to reiterate again that Hay River has the capacity to house this program. The contractor is going to set up the program in Hay River. We're not dismantling anything. We're just changing the location of where the program is delivered. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 58-15(4): Proposed Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My apologies for repeating what seemed like the same question and perhaps lacking originality, but sometimes there is a need for that in this House and you have demonstrated that

very well in the last session when we were talking about issues that were pertaining to other matters.

I'd like to ask the Minister, with all due respect, the Minister is not the expert on programming and neither is anybody around this table. I'd like to know, and I'd like to be assured, and I think I have the right to know on behalf of those children who are going to be affected that those decision-makers who are sitting here have had a look at it. I'd like to know, and going by the experts, the people in the field developing the program have not been consulted with, so I have no evidence to suggest to me that the Minister and the government had any information. So I'd like to know how does he have any inkling of what he knows about what the kids need and how is he sure those programs are available in Hay River if he doesn't know what they are? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee, and thank you for your observations on my comments about the originality of the questions, but please don't challenge it. It was a simple observation that that same question specific to the basis of the decision had been posed several times. So thank you for your observations, but it's not really appropriate. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 58-15(4): Proposed Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there should be in the Members' in-trays, a copy of a message I received from Dr. Gus Rozycki who runs Bosco Homes indicating their support and willingness to work with us in this transfer and their support for the decision to in fact do that. Dr. Rozycki is the head of Bosco Homes. He's very qualified in this area. He has a long history. He has very many good staff who he has access to not only in the North, but in Edmonton and other jurisdictions that they bring to bear on the children in care.

I, as well, have some background of my own working with children in care, running facilities. I know the program in Fort Smith which was there probably longest of all, and then there was Territorial Treatment Centre that was set up and I have some experience in terms of what children's needs are in these facilities. I also know that Cabinet has looked at this very carefully. So, Madam Speaker, I believe we've made a careful, reasoned decision and we're going to take the steps to follow through due process to carry it out. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 58-15(4): Proposed Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I thought we weren't allowed to talk about a document that's not before this House. Considering that, I'd like to still ask the Minister, I need to know simple answers about what the Minister has done to find out exactly what the needs are of the services that they are getting in Yellowknife. And you know what? If I'm convinced, if I'm provided with the information that these are the kinds of conditions and training that they need and this is the kind of support system they have and we have, as a

government, made a decision, a public policy decision, that the government is entitled to do, I have no problem with that. Give us the information. To be quoting an e-mail that's not even before the House is not adequate, Madam Speaker. I believe the public has a right know. Did Mr. Gus or somebody, whoever the Minister is mentioning, do an assessment in Hay River? Where is the information that he's saying that this is all hunky-dory fine and that we're just making a big deal out of nothing? Is that what the Minister is suggesting? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 58-15(4): Proposed Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in fact it's Dr. Gus Rozycki and the Member asked me what experts we'd discussed this with and who had we talked to. We've had discussions and I've personally met with Dr. Rozycki as well as Mr. Bowerman, as has the deputy and the staff of the department. We've had the discussion with the service provider who, in our opinion, is eminently qualified to deliver the service and they've indicated to us that they are prepared and willing to work with us to relocate the program to Hay River and deliver that same program in Hay River. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 58-15(4): Proposed Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. With all due respect, I believe the gentleman he's talking about is a person in charge of this program who resides in Edmonton, who knows that this is a program that their company is administering, but he's not one of the people who are delivering programs to these kids, whether in school, whether in audio therapy, in speech therapy, whatever medical and social services they use. I'd like to know, yes or no, has the Minister or his department talked to any of these experts and any of these professionals who constantly work with these youth to incorporate them into mainstream society? Has the Minister or his department talked to any of them? If not, why not and when would he do that so maybe we could get some information? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 58-15(4): Proposed Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Dr. Rozycki is an eminent practitioner as well as the head of Bosco Homes and he has extensive experience in delivering this type of program. He's very capable and qualified, as are his staff. This is a program decision, public policy decision, as the Member indicated, and it's a case of can a program be moved and operated and relocated and operated in the same structure that it currently has. In our opinion, it can be, yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for oral questions has expired. Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, 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 is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Krutko. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'd like to recognize Shona Barbour who is originally from Tsiigehtchic, but she's abandoned us and is now in Inuvik. Shona is here in Yellowknife as part of the NWT Scott women's team from the Northwest Territories and they received the NWT Team of the Year Award. Welcome, Shona.

---Applause

Also, I'd like to recognize the former Sergeant-at-Arms in the House, Nicole. Welcome back.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize the former Sergeant-at-Arms of this House, Ms. Nicole Latour-Thede, who is also a constituent of mine. Welcome, Nicole.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to seek unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Ramsay. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 59-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the NWT Housing Corporation in terms of the professional housing situation in the Sahtu. I understand there might be some movement in terms of retaining some of our professional people in the Sahtu. Also, the issue of housing is still an issue that I'd like to pursue with the Minister. Is the Housing Corporation doing all it can to retain or attract professional people in our regions in terms of the education field or the health field? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 59-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, we are working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in trying to ensure we are able to track professionals and keep them in our communities by the market housing initiative that is out there. Again, this year we will be putting more units in Deline and Norman Wells. Because Deline is going to have to be delivered over the winter road, they won't be available until next spring. We're hoping to have the units in Norman Wells in place by this fall. It is in place. We are continuing to deliver the market housing initiative in the Sahtu region in those two communities, Deline and Norman Wells, this year. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 59-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Regarding the market housing initiative, several complaints came from the teachers about the high cost of renting these market housing units and the other expenses to operate these units. Is there any movement on behalf of the department to revisit the rents they have on these units in the region? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Krutko.

Further Return To Question 59-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, we have learned from our experience in the last couple of years through the market housing initiative. We are looking at redesigning the newer models with regard to having a duplex layout, so the cost will come down. I think we are looking at somewhere in the range of \$850 to \$1,000 and that includes utilities. Because we are able to bring down the cost of the units themselves because the individuals want to be able to buy units outright, now we are able to deliver these units at a lower cost than we were able to deliver the first phase for. By making these changes and working out the kinks in the first phase, we are able to bring down the cost, so it is more affordable and people can purchase them at a more affordable price. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Krutko. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 59-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. That's good news with regard to retaining the professional people in the Sahtu. Has the Minister's department looked at giving some consideration to some organizations in the Sahtu to build affordable units for the professionals in terms of the programs that they can offer to these organizations that would attract professionals? Some of the health workers are unable to come into the Sahtu because some houses are not available. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Krutko.

Further Return To Question 59-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are in discussion with the Ernie MacDonald Land Corporation in Norman Wells. We realize there is a possibility of a market in Norman Wells with the hospital establishing a Sahtu health board. There will be a need for more units than we can offer. So we are in discussion with the people from Norman Wells to look at a partnership, so they can get into the market housing initiative themselves. We would have someone take over that program and run with it. So we are in deliberations with people from Norman Wells, the Metis Development Corporation there. We are in those discussions right now, so we are still working with them to see if there is a way we can work out an arrangement that is satisfactory to both parties. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Krutko. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 59-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can the Minister inform the people in the Sahtu about the other communities? Some teachers are having a hard time getting into units. Maybe other organizations in the Sahtu as well could enter into some sort of discussion or have a meeting with the Housing Corporation to look at providing some affordable units within the Sahtu.

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

Further Return To Question 59-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, like I stated, we are open to arrangements. But because of the initiative we have, which is to bring affordable housing into communities for professionals, to ensure they are able to acquire housing where there is no staff housing and most of the houses in our communities are public housing, we are looking at improving the number of houses in those communities. But more importantly, we are meeting the needs of our professionals.

Again, because of the efforts by The Department of Education and also Health and Social Services, they have worked with us to lobby the different agencies to make them aware there are programs there and also working with the communities and different corporations out there to get them involved. In order to make sure this program is successful, we have to build partnerships and move forward. So we are open to that and we are working together. I believe we will definitely be able to deliver housing to our professionals and keep them in our communities. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I think this would be a good time to take a brief recess.

---SHORT RECESS

MADAM SPEAKER: I will call the House back to order. We were on oral questions. Just for the information of Members, we had quite a waiting list when the original 60 minutes ended. So let me just give you the order in which we had people waiting for oral questions. Next we have Mr. Braden, followed by Mr. Hawkins, followed by Mr. Ramsay. Those are the speakers we have at this time. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 60-15(4): Disclosure Of Information About The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I will continue with questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services on the issue of the TTC. Madam Speaker, tenacity and perseverance are very much skills to be admired at the ministerial level. That's one of the reasons I had confidence in making sure that Mr. Miltenberger went in there and I still have confidence in him and his capacity. You know something, Madam Speaker, flexibility and having an open mind are qualities that are equally important in having a Minister there and this is where I would like to see the Minister demonstrate this quality.

The Minister has opened the door a little bit, Madam Speaker, and said that he is going to disclose some information to us. My question, Madam Speaker, is, is this going to be information only exclusive to Members, or is it going to be the kind of information that can be shared with the public and the media and with stakeholders in this issue? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Return To Question 60-15(4): Disclosure Of Information About The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for his vote of confidence. I would also like to point out that when it comes to flexibility and being responsive, and I like to think creative, it is Health and Social Services in the last few years that has come up with midwifery legislation, nurse practitioner legislation, that has moved to do a facilities review that is going to make sure that the renovations to Stanton go ahead, that consolidates the clinics in Yellowknife, among other things, in addition to the work we have done with alcohol and drugs. I would ask that the Member keep that in mind as we focus on this particular issue.

The information that we give to Members, the assumption is it is their information. There is no caveat that I am putting on it that it can't be shared. Once it is out of my hands, it is their information. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 60-15(4): Disclosure Of Information About The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is going to give us some extra measure to be able to go out to our constituents who, as much as we as MLAs, seek to know what was behind the department's decision and make our own judgments on it.

Madam Speaker, this will be my last question on at least this go-round here. If the Minister says there are no caveats on it, then I would ask whether he would intend to table the document so that it would be available to everyone all at the same time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 60-15(4): Disclosure Of Information About The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I was asked to provide this information to the Members and I will do that. There are no caveats on it. I will also bring a package to Cabinet tomorrow to get some feedback, as we do before we table any documents, to see what the will of Cabinet is. At this point, the Member will have the information. He can look at it and determine how best he wants to use it, as will every other Member of this House. Thank you.

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

Question 61-15(4): Statistics On EDAP Program

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Housing, the Honourable David Krutko. Would the Minister be able to answer my question which is how many people in the Yellowknife area in the last two years were turned down for EDAP loans, whether they were disqualified or they were applicable for loans but there was not enough money? If the Minister can't answer that question, can he agree to supply that information before the end of session? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Return To Question 61-15(4): Statistics On EDAP Program

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Minister has taken that question as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 62-15(4): Access To Respite Care

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I spoke earlier of the TTC and the issues that we are facing with the proposal to move the TTC out of Yellowknife, and that being a microcosm of other issues facing families in the Northwest Territories with children who have autism, ADHD, behavioural problems and things like that.

I have a constituent who recently moved north from the Maritime provinces. In the Maritimes, Nova Scotia particularly, respite care for their child was readily available and when they moved north to the Northwest Territories, they found it to be quite challenging in terms of accessing respite care for their son. I know there was a pilot project that concluded at the end of March. I would

like to ask the Minister today where the evaluation is for that program and if families that are in need of respite care for their children are going to be able to access the respite care. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Return To Question 62-15(4): Access To Respite Care

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my recollection is that the evaluation will be completed at the end of this month, the first part of June. In the meantime, the department is continuing to fund the program as well. We are not arguing the merits of the program; we are looking at how best we can maintain it in Yellowknife and look to expand it to other communities, as well, where it is an issue. We are also working through the business plan and some of the money that may come to us, God willing, when the federal budget is finally passed, will allow us to put some more funds into respite care. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 62-15(4): Access To Respite Care

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am wondering if the Minister is aware that there is currently a waiting list for families wishing to access respite care and the fact that there are...I believe my constituent was, I think, number 11 or 12 on a list. I find it hard to believe that a family would have to be put on a list. You start to wonder, there are 11 other families that are impacted by being on this waiting list. Is the Minister aware of a waiting list and what steps is he going to take to try to address the concerns of the people that need this service? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 62-15(4): Access To Respite Care

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, maybe just to give a bit of perspective on this issue; up until relatively recently, before the start of this pilot project in Yellowknife, there was only medical respite, which closed the door on a majority of people that had dependants at home that didn't need medical respite but could benefit from the program that was created here in Yellowknife on a pilot basis.

We have taken the step to move away from just the medical respite to do the social respite. I acknowledge fully in this House that we are beset by far more problems than we have resources. We have put money into this. I am aware that there is a waiting list. I am aware that this program only exists in Yellowknife right now and that we are working hard to make sure that we can come up with ways to resource this, so that we can expand the service to make it available not only as needed in Yellowknife, but to other communities as well. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 62-15(4): Access To Respite Care

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am wondering why residents in the Northwest Territories would not be offered the same types of services that they are in southern Canada and whose responsibility is that? Is that our government's responsibility, or is this something that we can go back to the federal government to try to find funds for so that residents here in the Northwest Territories are treated exactly the same as they would be in some of the other provinces? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 62-15(4): Access To Respite Care

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, for the most part I think the citizens of the Northwest Territories are treated as good as or better than their counterparts in southern jurisdictions, but the Member's point is a good one.

This is a recent program. The need has been there clearly for some time. We have acknowledged that need. We have taken steps to institute, as I indicated, a pilot. We are going to go through the evaluation process, but with an eye towards how do we continue or expand the program.

We have been getting or we are going to get significant amounts of money from the federal government. We are doing a briefing with committee, I believe it's Thursday, that is going to lay out the federal money that we do have, that we haven't had and it has to go towards our Treasury Board or is still tied up in the budget, as well as with a list of how we are proposing and planning to expend those funds or put them to use. One of those areas is in fact to try to better fund this program. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 62-15(4): Access To Respite Care

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for recognizing this need and I would also like to mention the fact that the families out there that do access this non-medical respite are truly grateful for the help that they receive. I would like to ask the Minister if or when the evaluation on that pilot project is complete, he would share it with all the Regular Members of this House? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 62-15(4): Access To Respite Care

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would be happy to do so. Thank you.

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

Question 63-15(4): Consideration For Aboriginal Leaders And Territorial Cabinet Meeting

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is to the Premier of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Handley. In light of the recent news reports this morning with the federal government, Cabinet and the Assembly of First Nations members meeting, it is the first time I think in history that AFN is having a meeting with the federal Cabinet in Ottawa. Would the Minister consider having something along that line, similar to our Cabinet and the aboriginal organization's governments in the Northwest Territories, within the life of this Assembly? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 63-15(4): Consideration For Aboriginal Leaders And Territorial Cabinet Meeting

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our government is always open to ways of consulting with aboriginal leaders. We have the Circle of Northern Leaders; we try to be more inclusive. We also have the Aboriginal Summit where I meet with the leaders and I certainly would consider expanding it beyond just meeting with myself to meeting with all the Members of Cabinet if they want. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 63-15(4): Consideration For Aboriginal Leaders And Territorial Cabinet Meeting

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Premier. I think it is really openness of the evolution of the Northwest Territories, in terms of expanding it to the different forums that we have been involved in so far. Having the suggestion as the northern governments or the aboriginal governments, is there any appetite, I guess, for having these aboriginal governments meet with Cabinet on some of the important issues that we have been talking about for the last three or four days, on the issues in our communities for the aboriginal governments? Can we be part of the Cabinet's decision? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Premier Handley.

Further Return To Question 63-15(4): Consideration For Aboriginal Leaders And Territorial Cabinet Meeting

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I say, we are always open to meetings. We probably meet with aboriginal leaders in our government more than any other government in Canada, certainly more than the federal government. It isn't anything new for us to meet with other Members.

As far as involvement in Cabinet decisions, I think that that is a different kind of forum and not one that we could easily accommodate here, because we are making decisions on behalf of the 19 of us and to begin bringing other people into it, I'm assuming vote, would be going a bit further than what I would contemplate. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 63-15(4): Consideration For Aboriginal Leaders And Territorial Cabinet Meeting

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Premier is correct in terms of our willingness to involve other northern representatives in our government. We have shown some great leadership by the Cabinet and the leader of the government here, in terms of involving the northern people in our decisions as 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I guess the extra step here is to go a little further in terms of having, like the federal government, a process where we can investigate and see where can northern people, aboriginal governments...because it truly is a government-to-government relationship. Right now we have one as the territorial government, ourselves, and I'm not too sure of the aboriginal governments' status within this government here in terms of how they are being looked upon.

I once again ask the Premier would he consider having maybe a different forum, maybe a northern governments' forum that would involve all the different organizations in the Northwest Territories? There is one organization that really isn't a government, that is the aboriginal governments under the land claims. Again, would the Premier give some consideration as to how they could be involved in the Cabinet decisions? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Premier Handley.

Further Return To Question 63-15(4): Consideration For Aboriginal Leaders And Territorial Cabinet Meeting

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again, we are always open to hearing the viewpoints from aboriginal leaders, from municipal leaders, from all of the leaders in the Territories, so I am always open to new ways of being able to consult. At the same time, we have to respect each other's differences, as well. I have often been to aboriginal leaders' meetings where I am told it is in camera and I am not welcome inside. Just wait outside until they finish the in camera meeting. It works both ways. We wouldn't want to ask the aboriginal governments to include us in their decision-making, and the same thing applies this way as well.

As a public government, we are elected to represent all the people; we have to have some periods where we would not include others in our decision-making. Having said that though, on consultation, on arriving at joint decisions through consultation, through consensus, we are open to doing that and we have done that.

Madam Speaker, I would like to just say, as well, I think a leadership role in bringing for example aboriginal leaders into the Western Premiers meeting when we held it in Inuvik, of being an advocate for getting the aboriginal members to meet with the First Ministers and with the Council of the Federation, all the Premiers, that has been our way of working in the North and we carry it even beyond our boundaries. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 63-15(4): Consideration For Aboriginal Leaders And Territorial Cabinet Meeting

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the evolution of the Northwest Territories is ever changing and part of my final supplementary is to the Premier in terms of having a forum, I guess in terms of how we are creating a new territory because of the settlements of the land claims and just recently the progress that is made in the Deh Cho region. Now the other areas are also looking at the land claims. Truly government-to-government relationships would happen in terms of creating this new territory, because the land claims would give a little more jurisdiction to the settled claims, in terms of each region. I guess I am asking the Minister if he would consider having a forum that would have a truly government-to-government relationship on a new territory for us here in the North. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Premier Handley.

Further Return To Question 63-15(4): Consideration For Aboriginal Leaders And Territorial Cabinet Meeting

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, we will consider that. I have to say though, Madam Speaker, that we are getting so many organizations in the North that we have to look at how we do business, because I have met with community leaders who say they represent their interests, nobody else; I've met with regional leaders who say they represent theirs; I've met with the Dene Nation who say they represent everybody on a broad range of issues; I've had meetings with the Intergovernmental Forum who say they represent everyone; I've met with the Aboriginal Summit who say they represent everyone.

I think before we would add more bodies on top of that to consult with, we want to look at how do we do business together in a way that is more streamlined. Madam Speaker, I am open to it, but, at that same time, we want to look at how we are conducting all our business right now and is it the most efficient way. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 64-15(4): Educational Needs Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and it has again to do with the transfer of the TTC. Madam Speaker, as I have already repeated many times today, the sense I am getting from the people out there, especially the professionals who have been involved in delivering services and addressing the needs of the children who are being treated in this facility, I think that the people will be appalled that the people who do this have never been consulted. In fact, I just learned today that the most senior education official in Yellowknife asked one of the senior officials in the

department, not to long ago, whether they knew anything about this. They said no.

I would like to know whether or not the department has talked to administrators of education in Hay River as to the capacity and what more they would need in order to deliver these programs. Has the Minister looked into that? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 64-15(4): Educational Needs Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, no, the department, as I said earlier today, wasn't consulted on the proposal. I have every confidence that the education system in any of our communities can handle the support that is required. The department provides funding for a teacher at the facility and the expectation is that the youngsters will reintegrate back into the school system. We are comfortable that as the process works itself through, that the young people in the facility will be prepared to participate in a regular school. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 64-15(4): Educational Needs Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Without having asked any of those questions or gotten information on that or not having had these senior officials talking to those people who are involved in education, how could the Minister have any kind of confidence or any kind of expectation? When was he going to communicate this confidence in education to those who are going to be responsible for taking care of these children? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Dent.

Further Return To Question 64-15(4): Educational Needs Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have tremendous confidence in the people who administer and deliver the education program in the Northwest Territories and I spoke about that earlier today in the successes that we've seen in education. We have a tremendous cadre of professional people who are well qualified to deliver the programs that are offered in education across the Territories.

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

Supplementary To Question 64-15(4): Educational Needs Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That very mundane, feel good, general statement that the Minister is making is showing just more clearly than ever before how little he knows about the needs of these youth in the centre. These are not people who can benefit from the mainstream programming that we have. They are in need of very, very specialized services, which if the Minister

would take time talking to them would tell him that it is in jeopardy of being dismantled. So would the Minister direct his senior officials to talk to the educators and those who provide services to these people, talk to the real people on the ground and find out exactly what they do provide and then find out from Hay River what they have there? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Dent.

Further Return To Question 64-15(4): Educational Needs Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Madam Speaker, the Member has presented herself as an expert as to whether or not the people in Yellowknife are more expert themselves than the people in the other communities. I don't accept that. I would say that we have people with the same qualifications available to us across the Northwest Territories.

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

Supplementary To Question 64-15(4): Educational Needs Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Going by the very defensive answer of the Minister, I know I have the Cabinet cornered and they do not have answers.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oooh.

MS. LEE: They do not have the answers that the people are entitled to know. Now let me ask the Minister...Now I just forgot a very good question that I had for the Minister. I was just too excited about having you cornered. Madam Speaker, would the Minister of Education please direct his senior officials to find out this information as soon as possible and present exactly what the educational needs are? Because I'm telling you the Minister will find that there are a lot of special needs that he's not aware of. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you for the question and the answer, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 64-15(4): Educational Needs Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't know if it's because we're in a round building, but I haven't felt cornered by the Member in her questions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oooh.

HON. CHARLES DENT: I was offended that the Member would make the statements she was making, categorizing some of the people in other communities as not being as capable.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hey, hey.

HON. CHARLES DENT: That is not right. I have said in this House that I am satisfied that the programs can be delivered adequately in the Northwest Territories in communities other than Yellowknife. We are not the only community that has experts. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Dent. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Question 65-15(4): Relocation Of Hook Lake Buffalo Herd

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to direct a couple of questions to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources in respect to the Hook Lake bison recovery project in Fort Resolution. Just for public record, could the Minister let the people know in Deninu Kue if the department has initiated any plans to do a comprehensive cost analysis to relocate the herd to the Little Buffalo River site of the previous herd that was there a few years back? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 65-15(4): Relocation Of Hook Lake Buffalo Herd

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there has been some preliminary work done on that request but, as the Member knows, the herd is currently under quarantine and we're waiting for some secondary test results to come back so that we can determine the future of the herd more definitively. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 65-15(4): Relocation Of Hook Lake Buffalo Herd

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, the Minister has made my office aware that June 20th is the big day that these tests are supposed to come back and are going to determine the fate of the Hook Lake bison recovery project. Either way I am trying to let the community know that either way the bison are going to go, come positive or negative results from the lab. So I just want to make sure that the department is actually prepared to move should the tests come back negative for tuberculosis or whatever bison diseases they are looking for, and would the department be in there within a timely manner, hopefully by this summer, to move the herd away from the community as is the wishes of the community and the constituents? They all want the herd relocated, come positive or negative. Could the Minister let us know that this will happen this summer if the tests do come back negative? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 65-15(4): Relocation Of Hook Lake Buffalo Herd

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there are two significant issues; one is more short-term and one is longer term. In the short term we're waiting for the test results to come back to confirm or not the initial potential findings of one of the tests that were done on the buffalo of the Hook Lake herd that are outside of the community. The other bigger piece is if there was a broader plan here at play to try to

deal with the issue of diseased bison that exist in the park and outside of the park in the Northwest Territories and down into Alberta, and the point of the Hook Lake herd was to have a disease-free herd that could be maintained for a relatively short period of time until the issue of diseased bison is dealt with in the Wood Buffalo Park and in the Northwest Territories and Alberta. There has been almost no movement on that broader outside issue. So we have to make a program decision, as well.

We've been carrying this herd, we've been maintaining it. There's no money currently in the budget. It is being funded from other sources. If the tests prove that the herd is still healthy, then the other issue is what's the point? Are we going to continue to keep them, and if we are going to keep them, for how long, and are we going to have any movement on the broader issue of these bison? The point is not just to keep them for no other purpose than just having them in a corral where there are crowding issues and there are other fundamental issues to deal with. So I think the Member is aware this is a very complex issue, and we're going to try to look at it carefully to make the right decision. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 65-15(4): Relocation Of Hook Lake Buffalo Herd

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Minister for his reply and assurances that there are things that they are looking at. In the short-term with the test results coming back, if they come back negative, that's great. If they come back positive, the herd is going to go anyway. But with the future of the Hook Lake program itself, I guess the long-term issues that were discussed were moving some bulls to the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary in order to mix the genetic pool a little bit and move some young bulls to Saskatoon for research down there.

In the short term, the community wants the bison herd moved. It is right next to town. You can smell the bison droppings all summer and people are just getting fed up with it. They've been there for nine years now and they want the herd moved in the short term, come positive or negative. So given these other options that the Minister has presented with looking at the long-term viability of sustaining the program versus short-term results, is the Minister going to make a commitment that the department will move the herd this summer, period? The community wants them moved and that's that. I know if the tests do come back positive they'll probably cull the whole herd, but that's to be determined. I'm just trying to get some planning done before these tests come back positive or negative to make sure that we've got something going already. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 65-15(4): Relocation Of Hook Lake Buffalo Herd

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, if the test results come back negative and everything is okay, then we have to go through the process to regain the disease-free status from Agriculture Canada, which is an important first step. If

we're going to move the herd, there are other issues we have to look at as the Member has indicated: the possibility of relocating on a temporary basis some animals to the University of Saskatchewan; the potential of entering into discussions with people from Providence about the Mackenzie sanctuary herd and possibly increasing their genetic diversity in addition to moving them. So I'll commit to the Member that, yes, we want to make some clear final decisions here on this herd after June 22nd and we'll make sure that the Member is fully engaged.

This is going to be an issue where there has to be some give and take on both sides. So there are other things that we are interested in, such as possibly moving part of the herd to other locales as well. So we need to have that discussion with the community, but we're very, very aware of the issue. I have been there and we've had meetings. So I'll commit to the Member that we'll make those decisions and he'll be fully involved with those. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Brief final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 65-15(4): Relocation Of Hook Lake Buffalo Herd

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the Minister for making that commitment to the community that, yes, they are going to look at the option of definitely moving them out of the community. I know that the community has some grave concerns with regard to the water quality and the bringing in of some mice from down south that are suddenly coming in with all the hay and the food that they are using to feed the bison, and some health concerns related to that. Also, just with respect to the health of the herd itself, the confines that they are in are pretty small in comparison to where the community would like to move them, which is a much bigger ranging area. The community wants a healthy herd themselves and they are looking at moving them to the Little BR site because it's a bigger range and they'll have more room to move around, and you wouldn't get the downwind smell in the community all summer. With that, I'll just have to wait for the results come June 22nd and see where the department is going to take it from there. Hopefully there will be some productive meetings that will go on in the next month with the community. If there is going to be a meeting in the community in the upcoming three weeks prior to June 22nd, when is that going to be scheduled? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 65-15(4): Relocation Of Hook Lake Buffalo Herd

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there will be a meeting, but it will be after we get the test results back so we have something specific to talk about. One of the issues on the table is if there is no foreseeable future for the diseased bison issue and if it's going to be unresolved, well then clearly one of the options I will have to consider, as the Minister, is do we just take the herd back and release it back into the wild and say it was a good exercise, it's been nine years and there's no progress as opposed to possibly just moving them to another location and keeping

them in a corral and continuing to feed them and fenced in with no real viable plan in place. In fact, that's a suggestion I heard from a number of the Member's constituents last time we were there, is we were talking about what to do with the buffalo. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 66-15(4): Consulting On The Territorial Treatment Centre Education Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, obviously my questions are to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and I'm following up on the question and answers we had previously. I have to say obviously the Minister was not listening to some of the questions that I have been posing, because I don't think at any time did I ever claim to be an expert on this issue. In fact, Madam Speaker, I think that's the beauty of our office in that it is our privilege to be generalists. It is our duty also to ask the experts for information in making decisions. I'm asking the Minister to have enough humility to go and ask the experts, who should know better. I would like to know, because I don't think the Minister provided the answer, would the Minister ask his senior officials to go and talk to the educators in our city to find out what sort of services they have been getting, and then get the senior officials to talk to the people in Hay River to see what they have and what more they might need? Is that not a reasonable question, and I'm not claiming to be an expert. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

Return To Question 66-15(4): Consulting On The Territorial Treatment Centre Education Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, if the program is moved to Hay River, which is at this point a proposal, it has to go through the business planning process. If the program is moved, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will work with the DEC and the DEA to make sure that the same level of support is provided by the department in whatever community the program moves to as is provided in Yellowknife. So we will make sure that the expert assistance that is required through the educational system is available wherever this program is offered. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 66-15(4): Consulting On The Territorial Treatment Centre Education Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. How can the Minister say that when he does not know what the requirements are, or does he? Yes or no.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Dent.

Further Return To Question 66-15(4): Consulting On The Territorial Treatment Centre Education Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I know that the Department of Education provides one teacher for the program and that the kids in the

program work with the staff at the centre as well as the teacher to integrate back into the school system. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 66-15(4): Consulting On The Territorial Treatment Centre Education Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm afraid the Minister keeps displaying his lack of information and knowledge about this issue. I have to tell you that I'm told that there are at least two teachers employed with YK No. 2 who are involved with the centre, who directly are involved in teaching these kids. There are other people involved in this program. They are placed in all seven schools in the city. There are other people involved in educating these kids. So how can he just say, or is that proper budgeting process to say we're going to do this? I don't know what the details are, but whatever it is we're going to match the service of Yellowknife to Hay River when he doesn't know what's out there. How can he say that? This is not responsible.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Dent.

Further Return To Question 66-15(4): Consulting On The Territorial Treatment Centre Education Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am confident that we can support the same sort of program that we support now through Education, Culture and Employment in any community. As I said, for the students at the centre right now, Education, Culture and Employment funds one teacher. As well, the children are encouraged to get back into the regular school system. So obviously as they work into the school system they are going to be working with the teachers in the community, and that's going to happen no matter where the program is offered. So what the department will do is make sure that if the program is moved, and there's lots of lead time, Madam Speaker, we'll make sure that those discussions that need to take place with whichever organization is charged with providing that support happens on a timely basis and that preparations are adequately made. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 66-15(4): Consulting On The Territorial Treatment Centre Education Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's actually appalling that the Cabinet throws a bomb into this institution. In two years we're moving this and that's that, and we're trying to get information. If anybody hasn't gotten the point, my point is that all these questions we are asking and the answers to them are the most minimum information that the Cabinet should have had in making this decision. I think reasonable person would agree with that. I'd like to ask the Minister once again, not going by if and when and I'm confident and all that hullabaloo, could the Minister just ask his senior officials to ask the experts in the teaching field what the programs are? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Dent.

Further Return To Question 66-15(4): Consulting On The Territorial Treatment Centre Education Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will have the experts within our system work with the people wherever the program is offered to make sure that that assistance, whatever it is that is required that we normally offer, is provided; that the same thing that we're doing here will be offered wherever the program is.

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

Question 67-15(4): Using Liquor Revenues For Regional Drug And Alcohol Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance and FMBS, the Honourable Floyd Roland. Madam Speaker, I understand from newspaper reports that liquor revenue that came out of the Northwest Territories last year was \$36 million and I wanted to ask the Minister if there was any plans within the government to see how this money could be put back into the regions that desperately need programs such as the TTC and alcohol and drug programs. Could some of this money from the liquor revenue fund go back into the regions that need the help? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister responsible for the NWT Liquor Commission, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 67-15(4): Using Liquor Revenues For Regional Drug And Alcohol Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Liquor Commission has the revolving fund. That fund is paid back into the GNWT general revenue and used for programming throughout the Northwest Territories. So in a sense, it already comes back to the government and is used for programs. It is not specifically targeted, but it comes back to the government and we use that money to help run programs and services. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 67-15(4): Using Liquor Revenues For Regional Drug And Alcohol Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Madam Speaker, I guess the perception out there is that the money that is used in terms of causing a lot of heartaches and headaches down the Mackenzie Valley in terms of liquor is why don't you put some money back. There is a huge chunk of money in the revolving fund. Put it back into the alcohol and drug programs so we contribute to these heartaches and headaches down the Mackenzie Valley. Certainly I think the government could do some shifting in their priorities, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Roland.

Further Return To Question 67-15(4): Using Liquor Revenues For Regional Drug And Alcohol Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as a government we can tally up all the areas that we fund to deal with the impacts of drug and alcohol. It is, as the Member puts it, a crying shame that we have to spend as much money as we do to deal with the impacts of something like drugs and alcohol. It is a problem in the Northwest Territories. We do spend a lot of money. Just look at the fact that if we have to deal with just one child that has FASD, it's a cost to the government throughout the life of that child that's 100 percent preventable. We do, as I was stating earlier, take the money we have and put it into programs and services. As a government, we have to look at how we deal with the prevention side of alcohol abuse and how we do that. That's something we are going to have to cope with overall as a government. The money we do have, in the area of \$36 million, comes back into the general revenues and we use that to offset the programs and services we already deliver. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 67-15(4): Using Liquor Revenues For Regional Drug And Alcohol Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, not understanding the process fully, Madam Speaker, the people in my region I represent say the money we had made from liquor stores, off-sales and the bars is a huge amount of money. Yet when we go into the communities and ask for treatment programs or programs that would help people such as for FAS or behavioural issues we were just talking about, why is it that we cannot put more money into programs because of damages that the alcohol is doing to our communities and our regions? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Roland.

Further Return To Question 67-15(4): Using Liquor Revenues For Regional Drug And Alcohol Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there is one way of looking at this. If we say we are going to take a percentage of this or take all the revenue that would come back to general revenues, which is used for programs and services delivered by Health and Social Services and the sales decline and the money starts to drop, what do we do then? The way we do it now is the Department of Health and Social Services would come forward with a request for funding and ask for increases if they have new programs and services they want to deliver or enhance existing ones. With that, we would review that and look at every department to see what money we have available and however we came up with the right balance. So again, Health and Social Services, a large part of their budget goes to drug and alcohol-related problems we have in the Territories, and Justice as well as Education as part of their funding purposes. If we tallied all the money we spent in the drug and alcohol-related expenditure side, we would quite easily go over the amount we bring in from the Liquor Commission. Do we need to put more into the prevention side? That's something we need to get direction on. If this House says that is a higher priority than other areas, then

as we go forward with our business plans we can start to incorporate that into the business plans.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 67-15(4): Using Liquor Revenues For Regional Drug And Alcohol Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We require further discussions in other forums of this Assembly in terms of the question I want to follow up with the Minister on. The way that the trend is now, I don't think we are going to lose any money. The revenues are increasing every year. The Minister has indicated that programs and services are being delivered out of the general revenue fund. Going back into the revenue, we subsidize a lot of the booze in the Northwest Territories. Is that something that the Minister would look at? Milk is quite expensive in our small communities. Oranges and apples are quite expensive. Sometimes booze is cheaper in our region. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Roland.

Further Return To Question 67-15(4): Using Liquor Revenues For Regional Drug And Alcohol Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First and foremost, let me be very clear. We do not subsidize alcohol in the Northwest Territories. In fact, we have some of the highest mark-ups of alcohol compared to other jurisdictions and that's where we get a lot of the profits from. So we don't subsidize. We don't subsidize the transportation. We don't subsidize the sales. It's all profit and we have some of the highest mark-ups on alcohol products compared to other jurisdictions. I know it's a difficult comparison when you look at some of the costs of essentials in a community like milk and fresh produce compared to places like Yellowknife or places that have easy access to get the goods in the communities. So it is difficult to compare that but, to be clear, we don't have a subsidy program for alcohol products. Thank you.

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

Question 68-15(4): Protection Of Ingraham Trail

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have questions for Minister Miltenberger in his capacity of Minister of ENR, not on the TTC this time. Madam Speaker, my question is with regard to the Ingraham Trail. I have constituents along the trail, as well as every other Yellowknife MLA, who have legal cabins out there. In the past, they brought forward their concerns and the former Minister of RWED, Minister Bell, started actioning a program to help deal with some of those concerns, but he no longer carries that portfolio. The concerns brought forward were garbage, trail establishment, clear-cutting, bonfires, lean-to potties -- believe me, I have pictures -- and gunfire attacks on killer trees. With all those types of things that are out there, what will the new Minister of this portfolio do to help protect the people out there and their personal property? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 68-15(4): Protection Of Ingraham Trail

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Of course, this is part of providing good government with continuity and consistency and the plan to follow the commitments that were initiated by Mr. Bell. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 68-15(4): Protection Of Ingraham Trail

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. To avoid taking the question as notice, I will issue a general one. Would the Minister be willing to assure me today that the patrols will be stepped up to ensure that property is safe, people are not clear-cutting, shooting, or attacking killer trees? Would he assure me that the patrols are out there protecting people and ensuring that property is safe? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 68-15(4): Protection Of Ingraham Trail

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Further to commitments made by my colleague Mr. Bell, there is a working group that is being pulled together with the various authorities collectively putting their heads together to come up with a work plan over the course of the summer to jointly look at the issues that cost the various mandates to ensure we can address some of the issues that my colleague has raised. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 68-15(4): Protection Of Ingraham Trail

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate that answer and I appreciate what Minister Bell has started by establishing that working group. I would like to see that lead continue because it does affect a lot of people. Could I have the commitment from this Minister to assure me in this House today, so I can go back to some constituents of mine, that this working group will be meeting very shortly, in whatever capacity, so we can get some true results out there so people can see that the RCMP and our parks officers are jointly patrolling these areas? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 68-15(4): Protection Of Ingraham Trail

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There has been some work with involved parties, with the unfortunate exception of INAC who we have tried to get to the table with no success as of yet. We

will continue the work and I will be prepared to keep the Member apprised of any plans that come out of this work or issues they determine have to be dealt with. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 68-15(4): Protection Of Ingraham Trail

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am looking for a further commitment from the Minister to see if we can step up some of the patrols. I know there has been some presence in our parks, but the constituents are asking for more visual presence on the weekends, especially the long weekends. Can I get that commitment today? Generally, most of these areas are referring to just past the Cameron River and towards Yellowknife. Those are the areas of highest contention. Again, I am referring to legalized cabin areas. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 68-15(4): Protection Of Ingraham Trail

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will commit to provide the Member with the information. I will go back to the department to see what they have planned for the summer to address some of the issues on the table and the initial work that has been done by the working group. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. 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. Minister Bell.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 7-15(4): GNWT Contracts Over \$5000 Report

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Government of the Northwest Territories Contracts over \$5,000 Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2005. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Bell. Item 13, tabling of documents. Minister Bell.

Tabled Document 8-15(4): Seizing Opportunities: Vision, Mission And Goals Of ITI

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Madam Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Seizing Opportunities: Securing our Future; Vision, Mission and Goals of the new Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Bell. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Hawkins.

Tabled Document 9-15(4): Written Question 81-15(3) Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I have two documents to table and I will table them both at this time. The first document is a reply to Written Question 81-15(3) asked in March with regard to the Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program.

Tabled Document 10-15(4): Residential Growth Study

The second document I would like to table today is residential growth study authored by the City of Yellowknife, their planning and land division. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Tabled Document 11-15(4): Conflict Of Interest Commissioner's Annual Report

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 13, tabling of documents. Members, pursuant to section 99 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I hereby table the annual report for the calendar year 2004 of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 2-15(4): Extended Adjournment Of The House To October 12, 2005

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 2, 2005, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Thursday, June 2, 2005, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, October 12, 2005; and further, that any time prior to October 12, 2005, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it had been duly adjourned to that time.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Minister Roland.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 2: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005, be read for the first time.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Roland. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 2 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Minister Roland.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 2: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005, be read for the second time.

Madam Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2004-05 fiscal year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Roland. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 2 is referred to Committee of the Whole. Item 18, second reading of bills. Minister Roland.

Bill 10: An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the second time.

Madam Speaker, this bill amends provisions of the Income Tax Act to make them consistent with parallel provisions in the Income Tax Act (Canada) that relate to tuition and education credits, foreign tax credits, child tax benefits, deductions from tax and capital gains refunds for mutual fund corporations. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Roland. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 10 has had second reading and is referred to committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005, with Mr. Ramsay in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): I call Committee of the Whole to order. We have one item before us today, Bill 2,

Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to consider Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Is the Minister prepared to entertain Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to proceed. Shall I start with opening comments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Please proceed with your opening comments.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to introduce Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005. This bill requests authority for additional appropriations of \$20.520 million for operations expenditures for departmental over-expenditures in the 2004-05 fiscal year.

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

1. \$620,000 for the Department of the Executive, Financial Management Board Secretariat, that represents the over-expenditure caused by accruing an additional \$3.5 million loss allowance on the loan guarantee agreement with Sirius Diamonds NWT Ltd. and Sirius Diamonds Ltd., and,
2. \$19.9 million for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development that represents the over-expenditure caused by accruing a \$23.75 million liability pursuant to the cooperation agreement between the GNWT and the Government of Canada respecting the Giant Mine remediation project.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Roland. I'm just wondering if the Minister wishes to bring in witnesses.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes, I wish to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort in the witnesses. Thank you.

Thank you. Committee, we will go to general comments from committee. Sorry; introduction of witnesses, Minister Roland, please.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me I have the secretary to the FMB, Mr. Lew Voytilla.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Roland. Welcome, Mr. Voytilla. We've got Mr. Hawkins first on the list for opening comments.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I see this appropriation, one element has to do with the funding with regard to Sirius Diamonds Ltd. One concern I had, I guess looking at this situation, is first and foremost my first question to the Minister will be will there be a public disclosure, if there hasn't been already, on the bottom line sale of Sirius and the costs associated with the repossession of Sirius through its process? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, when you add this amount that we're accounting for through the supplementary appropriation to the initial amount that was recorded, we're totalling a \$6.5 million loss to the GNWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time are we able to say what the sale of Sirius was to the company buying it? So the sale price. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we would be able to supply information to committee members with the breakdown of it. It's not just one number, there are a couple of factors thrown in there that make a difference for future years. There is an offset to that loss of future sales of diamonds that are marked with the polar bear trademark, as through this process we have entered into an agreement that would see the GNWT receiving a fee for each diamond that is solely under the polar bear trademark. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. I know the Minister did answer the question there, but maybe if he could narrow it down to would we get an actual dollar amount and, if so, when? If the Minister is able to provide that actual dollar amount, taking into consideration the polar bear fees, if he's able to give that today, I'd like to hear and, if not, I'd like to hear when we would be able to hear that number in a public context. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when you look at the total proceeds outside of the estimates fees we had received for the polar bear trademark, up front dealing with the number, we're about \$4.5 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry; Mr. Minister. Would that be even a further loss? I'm just trying to ascertain...So we lost more money than the company was worth. I'm just trying to understand, did we lose \$6.5 million and the \$4.5 million was what we were able to recover, so the total loss was \$2 million? Maybe if

the Minister could clarify, for my benefit, the loss to receive ratio on money of the sale of Sirius. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when you take in the total scope of where we went with Sirius Diamonds NWT, we had to incur a number of factors that add up to this, and this includes going through the interim receiver process and having them manage the facility to the point of sale where we've gone to the courts and are waiting for that 30-day period to come to a close, which will be in June. The total cost to us as the GNWT, we're looking at approximately \$10.7 million, and then you throw against that the estimated proceeds from the sale of the assets and what we have there at \$4.5 million comes out to a difference of about \$6.2 million or almost \$6.3 million. Then we're further offset in future years, as I stated earlier, by sales of diamonds that have been trademarked with the polar bear trademark. That would bring us fees going forward. But the initial figures, the total loss is about \$10.7 million, then you take the proceeds from the sale at \$4.5 million and that's where we come up with our loss of almost \$6.3 million. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Minister, for providing that clarification. I think that was very helpful. Seeing how we've mentioned the polar bear a few times, is this Minister in a position where he can inform me and this House as to what the cost of litigation was that the GNWT took against Sirius a couple years ago? What's the total cost of that legislation in regards to protecting or establishing a position that the GNWT owns that polar bear inscribed on the diamonds? If the Minister could provide that cost, I would appreciate it at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. That line of questioning is off the topic. We're dealing specifically with Supplementary Appropriation, No. 4, and we'd like to keep our questions relevant to the discussion at hand. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, you're correct that that is not included in this process as it has not been calculated. That was a different action taken by a different department, so we don't have that information available today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. I'm probably dancing a line of being ruled out of order. I probably will end my questions at this point, but I do think speaking to the bigger picture with the trouble we've had with Sirius, I think we're forgetting the compound effect and we've had trouble in how much it's cost us in the bigger picture. Unfortunately, we're running out of days in this House to put questions with regard to our diamond subsidy program or a diamond program, and what benefit the GNWT has received as a whole. I think this has kind of raised questions -- it certainly has in my constituency and I know with other Members -- about how are we subsidizing the growth of the diamond industry and to what cost.

Negotiating agreements so we could supply 10 percent rough is a bit of a...I don't know; I think it's misleading, because at the end of the day we, at present, one person is the net benefactor, although we have a company separated by paper alone. So in theory, as I understand it, Sirius is owned by company A and Arslanian is owned by company B, yet the general shareholders are the same people.

At this time, if it's appropriate to ask a question with regard to the sale of Sirius, I would like to ask a question. Was a monopoly taken into consideration of the sale price of Sirius where we received \$4.5 million because, as I see it, that 10 percent rough at this time is going to one group. Not that long ago we had four diamond cutting plants, if I have my numbers correct. One, Deton'Cho Corp no longer cuts diamonds; the second one which would be Laurelton, they have their own agreement to get a supply of direct rough; and, of course, the next two companies are relatively owned at the end of the day by the same shareholders. As I would see it, it's strictly an administrative matter where a piece of paper divides the monopoly. So the GNWT went very far in negotiating a 10 percent rough. Regardless of how much we actually get out of that is a different question, but at the end of the day one company is, in theory, monopolizing, or I should say one group of people are the net benefactors of that monopoly. Was that \$4.5 million sale price built into the fact that the same shareholders would be the sole benefactors of that 10 percent rough? I'll leave that question with the Minister, with a small proviso; if four out of five are the same shareholders, at the end of the day, the way I see it, it's relatively the same shareholders. So would the Minister answer the monopoly question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are four active cutting and polishing facilities in the city of Yellowknife. Two of them are operated by the same shareholders. Two of the agreements that we are involved with have the same proponents to them, with quite a big difference. Number one, this deal goes ahead with no further loan guarantees attached. The previous operation that was involved when we began reviewing our involvement in this still has a loan guarantee in place. They are the same shareholders, but they are different agreements and we're operating on that basis to ensure that we have covered every possible aspect of the deal to ensure that our guarantee is covered if in fact it ever comes into question again in the future. So there is not a monopoly. There are two companies controlled by the same shareholders that have a significant interest in the rough area, but they have agreements with the mine for that supply and they're being honoured, and we are cutting and polishing here in the city of Yellowknife. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if the Minister could elaborate what are the four companies, because if I'm mistaken I'd appreciate the information. I understood it was Laurelton, Arslanian, Sirius and Deton'Cho Corp. To me this all links to this expenditure and I just want some clarification, because this expenditure is helping clean up the costs associated with

the interim receiver stepping in. So as my final question, maybe if the Minister could clear that up and who is reaching into this negotiated 10 percent rough? As I said earlier, I think Laurelton has their own direct deals, so who would be the benefactors of the GNWT's negotiated 10 percent rough for these diamond companies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, ITI is the department that is directly involved with the polishing itself, on setting up the 10 percent allocation for companies in the North. Maybe the Minister would have that information of who is actually being able to draw down on that 10 percent. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Hawkins, if you want to pursue that line of questioning, perhaps at question period might be another opportunity for you to question the Minister of ITI on the companies. We are dealing specifically with the appropriation bill before us. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may pose a question one more time in a different direction and I will accept a ruling graciously, if you think it's out of order, but I will say that it's linked to the \$620,000 which all links to the bigger picture. The fact is we have one company now accepting that percentage of rough. So I guess if I can have my one question today, I'll accept that graciously with no further questions. If the Minister of ITI is able to answer that, who is drawing on that 10 percent rough? The Minister of Finance has said that there are possibly four. If we could just get that clarification today, I'll just leave it at that as my final question for today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Minister Bell is able to respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'll refer the question to Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Three of the local factories are approved as northern manufacturers and are drawing down on the rough made available for northern manufacturers. The Deton'Cho Corporation, Canada Dene Diamonds that involves a company, Schachter and Namdar, is one of those companies; Arslanian with their original factory is another; and the third will be the new Sirius factory owned by the Arslanian shareholders. The one that is not drawing the 10 percent is the Laurelton factory which has agreements outside of that process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Bell. We've got general comments. I'll go to Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the appropriation here regarding our loss on the diamond turnover here, I guess it really illustrates that this is a new enterprise in Canada and a risky one. There was a quick, steep learning curve. Perhaps it has plateaued a little bit now, but as we can see with these numbers here, Mr. Chairman, our government is still learning and obviously

learning the hard way, the very hard way, about going into these kind of ventures.

As an MLA here in the city and in the territory, Mr. Chairman, I am a supporter of governments going into areas where private enterprise does not have the wherewithal or the infrastructure or the ability to take a risk when the certainty of its outcome is not all that great. If government can go in on these kinds of new groundbreaking ventures, such as setting up secondary diamond shops, and help absorb the risk with the private sector, then I think that is a worthwhile endeavour and in principle I support it.

Now that we have taken our lumps on this particular one -- this isn't the only one that the taxpayer has had to absorb some impact on -- hopefully just about all of it here, I did want to explore a couple of aspects of the way this Sirius failure has come about and how it has been managed. The Minister has provided, upon questioning from Mr. Hawkins, some information to the effect that on a \$10.7 million total exposure we will potentially see, and this is after perhaps a decade of recovery on the trademark fee, a net loss of \$4 million on a total exposure of \$10.7 million. Maybe my terminology is a little bit off there, but we lost about 40 percent of our shirt on this one, Mr. Chair.

One of the things that I recall about the way we managed this, when the original company and the loan was called and the government actually stepped in and took over the plant, was how long it took us to determine how we were going to go about looking for a potential new buyer, and then how long it took us to verify and make up our minds and go through the paperwork and even when it came clear that a certain party was not going to be the successful bidder, it took weeks it seemed -- and I think I'm right on that, Mr. Chairman -- just to sort of clear the paperwork up so we could get on with actually finding a new buyer.

My point, Mr. Chairman, is that I really wasn't impressed with the way we handled this in an expedient nature. It seemed to take us a long, long time to get through what would otherwise have been or should have been relatively straightforward, not easy, but a relatively straightforward business decision on how to move something through.

I guess there is an area there that I wanted to probe a bit, Mr. Chairman. How is it that it took us so long to kind of work our way out of this receivership and into a position where the new Sirius company lives on under the Arslanian banner? Why did it take us so long to get here? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess since we are going into a little bit of history here, maybe I should do some of my own. Becoming the Minister responsible for this area and being briefed on the files that we had and the guarantees we had in place, I made a decision to bring this forward to my FMB colleagues and recommended that we act on these. The Arslanian factory deal was reached with the existing shareholders there as they managed to redo their work and come back to us with a better business plan and a more secure position for ourselves as the GNWT, and we accepted that and that was able to move on fairly quickly.

This one that we are dealing with now unfortunately did not go that path and we had to go through the courts. Once we entered into the courts through an interim receiver process, that opens the door to a whole lot of other processes that have to be adhered to. One is timelines, appeal process, interventions, and that itself dragged out the process for a number of days.

If we were able to get the deal that we had initially worked on and thought was the best deal, then we could have closed the doors on this as our first estimations were, late November, early December. Unfortunately that did not happen and we have had that discussion and debate around why that wasn't able to be done. But we weren't able to close that deal and had to then proceed to the next level and that is when things... Again, we had to add on a number of months for the processes to put the plan together, get legal people involved and so on. Unfortunately that did drag it out again for a number of months. We are almost a year at this now. By the time the 30-day appeal period ends, as it is going forward, our estimate as we laid before you takes into conclusion June 20th, and this is the numbers that we provide.

As much as we would like it to be a straightforward process, what we kicked into gear from the government end was straightforward. We needed to stop what was happening and act on it. Once we entered into the legal realm of courts and receiverships, that took on almost a life of its own and we had to follow processes that were laid out within that system. Hence, we are here now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: I appreciate the discussion, Mr. Chairman. I won't dwell on it, but along with these, as the Minister has indicated, there are receivers, there are lawyers, there are accountants, there are auditors, there are all sorts of services that are brought in. Could the Minister give us some idea of what we're spending and what we have had to spend simply on those fees and services that were required as part of this receiver process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the fees we had to deal with on this and we talk about valuator fees around \$8,000; the legal fees incurred to March 31, 2005, were approximately \$240,000, a few hundred dollars off of that; receiver fees incurred to April 22, 2005, were in the area of \$1.5 million; and then estimated receiver legal fees to June 20th we are estimating another \$298,000; and then trustee and bankruptcy fees to March 31st, another \$14,500. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Roughly \$2 million in fees out of a total \$10 million exposure. Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, how much of that \$2 million in fees is staying with northern-based companies; you know, receivers or auditors? Can we at least say that we are retaining some of this here? Hopefully most if not all of it, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the receiver was Deloitte and Touche who does business in the North but does not have its operations here in the North, and their legal people that they used for some of this work, as well, are companies that are not headquartered here or stationed here. They do work in the North, but the majority, if not all this money, has gone to those companies that are outside the Territories.

As well, once you go to the courts and ask for a receiver and one is appointed, it is done. When we took this action, it was fairly new to us as the Government of the Northwest Territories. We had to make sure we had companies that could definitely benefit us. Ultimately we could have taken the whole loss and just wrapped up the operations and had no further operations out there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments on Supplementary Appropriation, No. 4. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if it's going to be a good question, a bad question or a dumb question, but I am going to ask it anyway, Mr. Chairman. It is in regard to the remediation project at the Giant Mine. The question I have is, is there any further liability that we foresee in the future for more expenditures? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the way this deal has been put forward and agreed to is the amount we are entering into this agreement here is capping the GNWT's liability. The federal government has much more in the area of coming up with their share of the costs of doing remediation there. This is our portion that is over. The drawdown will happen over 10 years, but because the agreement was signed in 2004-05, we have to account in that year the full liability, but over a 10-year period will be drawn down as the site work and service area is done. The federal government will be on the hook for a much larger portion of over \$200 million of that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To return briefly, Mr. Chairman, to the diamond portion of this. The Minister just explained that regrettably it seems the majority if not all of these fees are going to non-resident, non-registered businesses that aren't based here. That is just really a shame. Even when things go wrong, you can't keep some of this money with our own professionals.

I guess what I'm seeing here, Mr. Chairman, certainly going into some avenues of business carries risk, but that, depending on how we handle it, can be extremely expensive. Receivership is a difficult and expensive way to go and I guess if I've learned something from this, it is to be doubly watchful of this kind of situation and knowing what the consequences could be when it comes along.

I certainly look though to an ongoing up-side on this, and that is that I know there are a number of jobs that continued as a result of keeping that factory going. We have certainly protected, if not enhanced, the Yellowknife and the NWT's position in the Canadian diamond manufacturing industry. It will be a much larger Canadian industry, Mr. Chairman, so there is something, as I say, on the up-side to be said for that. I wish the new owners and their employees every success in this.

I will close it off with one question to the Minister and that is how many employees are estimated to have been able to continue working because of this situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there were 22 or 23 employees; it's one of those numbers. Twenty-two were employed there and as the new owners have taken over, I don't have the latest information if they have added or changed any of that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have got nobody on the list for general comments. Does committee agree that we proceed to the detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. I will draw your attention to tab two in the grey binders, committee. I will give you a second to get there. We will come back to the bill itself, Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2004-2005. We will start on page 5, that is the operations expenditures. If we can go to page 5. Detail. Is committee prepared to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. Executive, operations expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, not previously authorized, budgeting and evaluation \$620,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. Total for Financial Management Board Secretariat, \$620,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, \$620,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operations expenditures, not previously authorized, \$19.9 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): That is for environmental protection. Total department, \$19.9 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. Thank you, committee. We will now go back to Bill 2, Supplementary

Appropriation Act No. 4, 2004-2005. Does committee agree that we go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. We are going to go to schedules first before we go into the clause by clause. If I could draw your attention to page 3, it starts on schedule, part I, vote I, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$20.520 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total supplementary appropriation, \$20.520 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, committee. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a general question about the fiscal year and I hope it is appropriate that I ask it now. When we set up each year's budget, Mr. Chairman, there is a supplementary reserve and the question that I wanted to put to the Finance Minister now that we are cleaning up the books from the past fiscal year, how did we do on our supplementary reserve? Did we come in sort of on or under budget? Have we exceeded it? What is the year-end report on our supplementary reserve? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you for the question, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Voytilla can give that detail.

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

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year with our second final supplementary, Supplementary No. 3, we overspent our supplementary reserves by \$8 million, so we did exceed them last year. This supplementary appropriation, because it is after the year end, affects our books directly. They are accruals as opposed to actual cash outlays for last year. For the Giant remediation, as the Minister pointed out, the actual cash won't be spent out. It will be spent out over 10 years.

With the extra provision for loss on Sirius, most of that cash has been spent out last year and this year, so it affects our cash position and will, in fact, increase that supplementary over-expenditure to the tune of about another \$3.5 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you. I guess in sort of percentage terms, Mr. Voytilla supplied some numbers here. I would just like to get a sense of the ratio or portion percentage-wise how much did we go over? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our normal supplementary reserves are \$15 million. In this case with the over-expenditures we are looking at, we probably overspent that reserve by about 60 percent because of the large items that we were dealing with.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Now go back to total supplementary appropriation, \$20.520 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. Thank you, committee. We will go clause by clause now, starting on page 1. Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Now to the preamble.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. Thank you. Does committee agree that consideration of Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005, has been concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. Thank you, committee, and I would like to thank the Minister and Mr. Voytilla for being with us today. Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. The motion is in order and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005, and would like to report that Bill 2 is ready for third reading. Madam Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Do we have a seconder for that motion? Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTING CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Ouellette): Madam Speaker, meetings tomorrow of AOC at 9:00 a.m.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 1, 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
 - Motion 1-15(4), Appointment of Information and Privacy Commissioner
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005

22. Orders of the Day

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

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

