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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, June 1, 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): Thank you, Mr. Braden. The languages being simultaneously translated today are French and North Slavey, for the information of Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Seniors, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 15-15(4): Senior Citizens' Week**

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Senior Citizens' Week will be celebrated in the NWT from June 5 to 11, 2005. This year, the theme is Stay Active, Be Healthy. Seniors that stay active within the community and remain as healthy as possible set an example for our youth and contribute to their communities by sharing their wisdom and life experience.

In the past few years, as part of the celebration of Senior Citizens' Week, an annual seniors' tea was held at the Great Hall in conjunction with the NWT Seniors' Society annual general meeting. This year, the NWT Seniors' Society has graciously offered to help many communities organize events to celebrate Senior Citizens' Week. I am pleased to announce that festivities will be held across the NWT in the Beaufort-Delta, Sahtu, South Slave, North Slave and Deh Cho regions.

Madam Speaker, as Minister responsible for Seniors, I would like to recognize and thank all seniors in the NWT for their contributions they make to our families and communities. I ask that we join in recognition of seniors throughout the NWT and each one of us take the opportunity to participate in celebrations during Senior Citizens' Week. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 16-15(4): Recognition Of Community Firefighters And Fire Departments

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to speak today about the important role of community firefighters and fire departments. Not only are firefighters our friends and neighbours, they are also essential volunteers who contribute to the public health and safety of our communities.

Firefighters are held in high esteem for the dangerous work they do on our behalf. Because of recent events in Yellowknife, where two community firefighters lost their lives, we all have an increased awareness of the risks firefighters take to protect us and our loved ones.

To recognize the essential work done by community fire departments and firefighters, every year the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs sponsors the NWT Fire Service Merit Awards. As part of the nomination process, communities in each of the five regions are asked to nominate one person from the fire department in their community as a candidate for this award. Communities are also asked to nominate their local fire departments based on their improvement in community-based fire protection services.

A selection committee comprised of representatives from communities and Northwest Territories fire services review the nominations and select one person from each region for the award. The committee also selects one individual from this same list of five regional nominees who is recognized as the overall outstanding individual in the Northwest Territories.

The committee then selects one fire department from among the nominations. That fire department is then recognized as the most improved in the Northwest Territories.

The Fire Service Merit Awards give communities the opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the dedicated people who give so generously of their time. Nominations for the awards close on June 30th and I encourage all residents of the Northwest Territories to submit a nomination form and take an active role in thanking the brave firefighters and fire departments that help to keep our communities safe.

In addition to encouraging the residents of the Northwest Territories to submit a nomination form for the Fire Service Merit Awards, I would also encourage residents to volunteer with their community fire department. Depending on the community, the time commitment required from individuals is not large, but the benefit to individuals and to the community is invaluable. Madam Speaker, firefighters are the first line of defence when fire threatens our communities. Notably, local residents who volunteer their time to keep their communities safe deserve our respect and thanks. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 17-15(4): NWT Literacy Council's Community Book Drive

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. Today, I would like to inform Members about the NWT Literacy Council's community book drive.

We all know children who are read to at home do better in school. Reading is one of the best things we can do at any age to increase and maintain our own levels of literacy. With this in mind, for the last several years the NWT Literacy Council has held an annual book drive.

Those who have books to spare may drop them off at locations throughout the city of Yellowknife or at Government of the Northwest Territories offices in Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Hay River and Inuvik. In fact, there is a drop-off box here at the Legislative Assembly. All books donated will be distributed to smaller communities to use in a variety of literacy programs, including family literacy events.

This year, the community book drive has expanded to include books for all ages, not just children's books. This is an excellent approach because as we often discuss in this House, northerners of all ages need to work to increase their literacy skills.

I would like to encourage everyone to donate their spare books to the community book drive before June 17th. I ask all Members to join me in thanking the NWT Literacy Council for their work on the community book drive. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Property Taxes In Smaller Communities

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Today I rise in the House to raise an issue that's been ongoing for quite some time. I am talking about the outstanding issues of property taxes in smaller communities in the Northwest Territories. Madam Speaker, this issue requires cooperation and coordination of two GNWT departments, Municipal and Community Affairs and FMBS, to find an amicable solution that many of the homeowners and ratepayers can live with. I hope this challenge does not impede the process and that the delays in finding an agreeable approach to tackle this issue are dealt with before the end of this taxation year.

Madam Speaker, during my constituency meeting in Deninu Kue, there were many concerns raised about the threatening letters residents received from FMBS stating that their outstanding taxation amounts and the actions they may face like the seizure of their homes that may be publicly auctioned off by this government should these people refuse to abide by the Financial Administration Act and clear their outstanding accounts as soon as possible.

Madam Speaker, one can only imagine the undue stress that this can cause for many of the elders that are receiving these letters. People who are unemployed are receiving these letters and families that are receiving

these letters are struggling to make ends meet. I realize that this government cannot wipe the outstanding amounts from the books as this would be deemed unfair to persons who are already paying their share in these communities, but I also realize from my experience that the assessments and the levy of taxation to many of these delinquent accounts cannot be deemed as equitable and fair according to the Property Assessment and Taxation Act.

Madam Speaker, this is the first step that must be taken to rectify this problem in order for this department to conduct an assessment that reflects the true value of the properties, an assessment which is fair and equitable in all aspects, a process that would indeed be agreeable by all parties involved.

I am willing to work diligently with both Ministers to assist them in developing a plan to see some closure to this issue before the new deal rolls out and before the smaller communities are left with this dilemma to deal with; a fair deal that is acceptable, not an approach that conceals the underlying issues at hand.

I am glad to know that the Municipal and Community Affairs Minister has made a commitment in this House to developing a working group to conduct the workshops in the affected communities so that this issue can be concluded by the end of the taxation year 2005. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On NWT Exemption From Goods And Services Tax

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Out of the \$37 billion the federal government collects from the goods and services tax across the country, it is estimated the Northwest Territories pays about .002 percent of that. That amounts to about \$60 million; \$60 million that would certainly go a lot further here in the Northwest Territories than it does in Ottawa.

Madam Speaker, in order to keep the hard-earned dollars of territorial residents in the northern economy, I think the federal government should exempt us from paying the goods and services tax.

The goods and services tax is rumoured to cost about as much to administer as it is to collect. The Liberal government in 1993 even promised to abolish this tax, but here we are 12 years later still paying our hard-earned money in support of this tax.

Madam Speaker, we have a very high cost of living and minimal services in many of our communities, so we have a hard time attracting and retaining a qualified workforce. The doctors are leaving the territory faster than we can ever hope to recruit them. Mines like Diavik say they can't find qualified staff because no one wants to move up here. Our own government is having an extremely difficult time in staffing our pipeline office in Hay River. Exempting the Northwest Territories from paying the GST would begin to help us level the playing field.

I think we should explore joining forces with both Nunavut and the Yukon territory, who may also wish to seek exemption from the GST. The population of all three northern territories, Madam Speaker, is roughly 85,000; about the same size as a city like Red Deer, Alberta. It would not impact the federal government's bottom line if they took a serious look at exempting the three northern territories.

The high cost of shipping products to the North already raises the prices in taxes in our stores. The price of shipped goods is even more expensive because the GST applies to shipping as well as the cost of goods. What happens is our residents pay the GST several times over. The Yukon government has even looked at eliminating the goods and services tax on heating fuels and electricity in recognition of the colder climate faced north of 60.

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

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Yukon government says that eliminating the GST on fuel would put \$200 back into each and every Yukon household and, therefore, back into the Yukon economy.

Madam Speaker, the federal government considers basic groceries, music lessons and even false teeth important enough to be exempt from the GST. Well I believe that we need some kind of competitive edge, some incentive to attract and retain a skilled workforce. The Northern Strategy has to recognize the fact that Northern Canada is a very expensive place to live. We have to try to find a way to give northern Canadians a break. If the federal government's true intention is three strong northern territories, northern development, sovereignty and social growth and development, then a very good start would be to have the federal government exempt the three northern territories from paying GST. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Access To Medical Transportation Services In Communities

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I rise to talk about transportation for health patients in the riding of Nunakput. For the past number of years, Nunakput residents have experienced a lack of transportation services for patients.

Madam Speaker, a concern was raised by constituents, in particular in a letter to the Minister of Health and Social Services from the Hamlet of Holman, that both elderly and patients in general have to find their own ride to either go to the health centre or report for medical reasons outside of their community. The hamlet operates a handy-van for purposes such as this, but it is outdated and costly.

This, Madam Speaker, causes problems in smaller communities where there are no taxi services. Although

there may be taxi services in some communities, it is not a solution because some taxi services are not reliable. As an example, Madam Speaker, Reindeer Point residents in Tuktoyaktuk live about 10 kilometres from the hamlet. The local taxi will not respond to taxi calls from residents of Reindeer Point. Imagine if a resident or patient needs to go to the health centre for medical reasons and cannot find a ride, what can happen to these individuals. This concerns me as well as my constituents.

In closing, Madam Speaker, the elderly and patients in general should have access to transportation services to health centres as well as translation services. How can the Department of Health and Social Services address this concern? Maybe, Madam Speaker, one option is to allow other government departments in the communities to have access to their vehicles. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Log Home Building Initiative Training Money For Jean Marie River

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I will be addressing the request from the community of Jean Marie River for their log home building training program. Jean Marie, along with Wrigley and Nahanni Butte just to name a few, do not have economic development officers and are not home communities to large economic development initiatives. They are small communities with limited economic activities and opportunities. When the community of Jean Marie embarks on a log home building initiative and needs assistance with training dollars, we should be giving special consideration when evaluating their training and economic development requests.

Furthermore, the funds requested were minimal, Madam Speaker, not even equivalent to the postage cost of any one of our departments. This government has previously expressed support for this initiative in Jean Marie River, however, their response today is no. This seems to be a contradiction. Concerns and initiatives in small communities seem to be overlooked by this government, with our administration only responding to what they think we want to hear or with a generic commitment.

The full-size recreational facility in Nahanni Butte and adequate and regular medical services for the community of Wrigley seem to be an ongoing promise by the GNWT and never seem to solidify to anything an MLA can take back to their home communities. The stimulation of economic development is critical to the future of all communities. Industry, Tourism and Investment say they recognize the value and the importance of adequate financial resources going toward community-based initiatives, so this lack of support is unacceptable for a government who prides themselves on being a government of the people.

I strongly support the training request from Jean Marie River. Small communities seem to be left with what other larger communities have decided and as each department, organization and regional office deduct their administration costs, we are left with a minimal trickle

down amount. This government must have continued and consistent resources for our smaller communities, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Need For An All-Weather Road Strategy For The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. At the start of the 15th Legislative Assembly, we all came here to debate and work for our constituencies and the entire Northwest Territories on the issues of today. Madam Speaker, over the course of this Legislative Assembly we, as legislators, initiate, amend and debate matters brought forward by Cabinet and government. Most importantly, we bring forth our vision for the North and how we can thrive under the unique circumstances of living up here in the North.

Madam Speaker, we, as legislators, work towards building our NWT nation. Mr. Diefenbaker's quoted vision for the North was to build a road that connects the North with the rest of Canada and that builds a foundation of brotherhood, vision and faith. Madam Speaker, unfortunately that vision of a road was not fully realized as I thought it would be.

Madam Speaker, the Sahtu region and other regions have vast resources of wealth. We have witnessed an increase in resource development activities. There's also the Bear River hydro dam. This is the largest potential project, next to the Mackenzie gas pipeline. We have also great potential for tourism, Madam Speaker. We have world-class fishing available to us in Great Bear Lake.

Madam Speaker, our region is an area with great potential for economic growth and development, but we need the roads to get there. The Sahtu needs the government to put a high priority in developing an all-weather road strategy for us. We want to be connected by road to the southern parts of the Northwest Territories. That is the Sahtu solution to this matter.

Finally, Madam Speaker, a road to the Sahtu is no pipe dream. We, as legislators, must do the right thing and start working with our people in the Sahtu so we can support the NWT Canada highway proposal that will include an all-weather road to the Sahtu. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Move Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have to state once again that the proposed transfer of the Territorial Treatment Centre is not a wise decentralization move, but a reckless dismantling of a very fragile and crucial service for children, not only at the Territorial Treatment Centre but all over the North, who

increasingly require highly specialized care. Rather than building up on its fragile strength, the government is proposing to start from scratch just because it's politically expedient. I would like to ask the government to hold off this plan until a substantive assessment has been done. Further, the government should look into maintaining the current specialized services at the Territorial Treatment Centre in Yellowknife and at the same time placing at Dene K'onia another level of youth treatment centre because there is a huge waiting list and I know there is a need for this.

Madam Speaker, as I already stated, the insistence on the part of Ministers Dent and Miltenberger, however sincere, that the extraordinary special needs of these children are going to be taken care of in Hay River as well as they do in Yellowknife is hollow. I'm telling you this because this is simply not possible. I have to state for all the good people in this Assembly and out there that it is not because Yellowknife thinks it is the biggest and the best because it's large. It is because that even as a big city, these services in Yellowknife, the services for pediatricians, psychiatrists, audio therapists, speech therapists and ENT specialists are in terribly short supply and they have been carefully stitched together for the whole of the Territories. It is because these children are located in Yellowknife that they are now able to have regular treatment that they need.

Already in Yellowknife this summer we are losing an ENT specialist and psychiatrist. We have already had to rely on a visiting child psychiatrist from Edmonton who comes here only once a month. I'm told that he gets four to five files each time he comes and he has almost 100 files of children on his mandate.

Madam Speaker, the information the Minister provided to us yesterday in our mailboxes shows that in every category, the services available for children in Hay River fall short to what is available in Yellowknife. This is not about Hay River or anything, but it is about the reality; the reality of the difficulty we have all over the country in recruiting and retaining very specialized service providers.

Madam Speaker, we have to understand that there are in the NWT an alarming statistic of children with severe cases of behavioural, emotional and mental health needs. Whether they be caused...

MADAM SPEAKER: Your time for your Member's statement has expired, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to finish my statement.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker and colleagues. May I just conclude by saying that, Madam Speaker, we have to understand that all over the NWT we have an alarming statistic of children with severe cases of behavioural, emotional and mental health needs, whether they be caused by FASD, a dysfunctional home environment or clinical issues. This centre in Yellowknife is the only network of specialized care we have and surrounding it are a web of highly specialized services that these children desperately need.

The right thing for the government to do is to strengthen what we have so that you can serve all of the North and that we are ready for the increasing needs in future. This decentralization move is nothing short of a destruction and dismantling of something very fragile that we need to have for the children of the North. If we could for one moment forget that this is in Yellowknife, I know that everyone here would agree that there is no need to move it or change it or dismantle it or fix something that is not broken. I believe there are lots of other issues of the fiscal matters that we'll be discussing throughout the day today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Community Consultation On Moving The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister of Health and Social Services and, I believe, the Premier yesterday did indeed offer to provide Members with further substantiation of the move of the Territorial Treatment Centre to Hay River. Without getting into it in detail, Madam Speaker, it was quite an extensive document, but did not provide me with the substantiation that I was looking for, Madam Speaker, and that is the consultation, the collaboration, the cooperation of the many stakeholders that this community has in providing services to the children with severe behavioural problems who are the residents of the Territorial Treatment Centre.

The core of this issue is the confidence of the community to know that a relocation will not disrupt or disturb what is already a very significant part of the lives of these children, of their families, and indeed of a number of other organizations in the city of Yellowknife that have over the past decade, collaborated, cooperated, and worked with each other to build this very vital service.

I just wanted to comment, Madam Speaker, that despite receiving, I don't know, almost 200 pages yesterday, it is void of any evidence that they have really thought this plan through and that is why I am one Member, and I know there are others on this side, who will continue to seek the deferral of this program at least until there is a consultative plan that can restore the confidence of the communities and the families and the kids involved in continuing this plan. 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 Development Of Green Space In Yellowknife

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The City of Yellowknife is under a lot of pressure and has increasing demands for more residential lots and subdivisions in the city of Yellowknife. The residential areas are needed to add to the city's quality of life, allowing the city's increasing economic growth and to accommodate the city's future workforce, the workforce that we are desperately trying to attract with initiatives done by this

government. However, there is a very low supply of available residential lots and subdivisions at a reasonable cost to develop within this city.

Recently, the City of Yellowknife developed a residential study prepared to evaluate the feasibility of in-field development opportunities on 15 sites within the urban area of Yellowknife and some of these sites are nature preserves and parks and recreation areas. Some of these sites and green spaces which are now slotted for development are, for example, the Taylor Road area, possibly even the community gardens area and maybe even behind the Avens area. These could disappear in our city forever because there's a lack of available land and affordable land to be developed in a reasonable way.

Madam Speaker, the hallmark of any capital city or any city in Canada, for a fact, is the abundant amount of green space in that city. Look to the river valley of Edmonton and the park systems of Ottawa and you'll know exactly what I mean. Not to mention about what the abundant green space does for the quality of life, as well as the community atmosphere in that particular area.

I don't want the city to unnecessarily feed on itself because they have no support for future residential subdivision development and I don't want to see the Yellowknives Dene not being given their right to ascertain lands that belong to them. But, Madam Speaker, we have a role here to play and it needs to be played by our Premier, a Premier I would like to see work with the City of Yellowknife and the Yellowknives Dene to work out opportunities so everyone can be happy to get what they need and definitely deserve. I think there's an opportunity here so we don't have to go back and eat up our valuable green spaces, our parks and recreation areas or even our nature preserves so people don't have to fight over those areas just to build houses.

Madam Speaker, an affordability role needs to be played and I think our Premier can work as a great mediator to help solve some of these problems we have here in the city of Yellowknife. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm honoured today to welcome to our Legislative Assembly the Consul General of Indonesia, Bunyan Saptomo...

---Applause

...and Consul for Consul Affairs for Indonesia, Bebeb Djundjunan.

---Applause

Madam Speaker, they're accompanied today by our protocol and communications officer, Carmen Moore, and summer student working with Ms. Moore, Anne Marie Summerfield.

---Applause

Madam Speaker, I'd also like to recognize my loyal constituent, Major Karen Hoeft.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley, and welcome to our visitors in the gallery today. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it's with pleasure I get to introduce in the gallery my constituency assistant who is down on training, Brenda Dillon.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 69-15(4): Role Of GNWT In Land Negotiations Between The City Of Yellowknife And The Yellowknives Band

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I was saying in my Member's statement today, I am concerned that possibly we could be reaching an area of stalemate between the City of Yellowknife and the Yellowknives Dene. I firmly believe the Yellowknives Dene have a right to land, and land that belongs to them and their personal development, so do I believe in the growth of the city of Yellowknife and I'd hate to see that impeded in any way. My question to the Premier is would he use his mediation skills, talents and abilities to help mediate the situation before a stalemate reaches an untimely death? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 69-15(4): Role Of GNWT In Land Negotiations Between The City Of Yellowknife And The Yellowknives Band

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is a process, an agreed to process, for dealing with transfer of land between the Government of the Northwest Territories, the City of Yellowknife, and there's also an interim measures agreement with the Yellowknives Dene on how we will do that; the Akaitcho, sorry, more than the Yellowknives Dene. That is managed through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and, Madam Speaker, I believe that Municipal and Community Affairs along with Aboriginal Affairs are working very effectively and cooperatively with both the city and with the Yellowknives Dene. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 69-15(4): Role Of GNWT In Land Negotiations Between The City Of Yellowknife And The Yellowknives Band

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I do recognize the process and it was set up by this government many years ago. It was a one-year moratorium on land so we could settle the land claim

process. But, Madam Speaker, the Yellowknives do have an entitlement to land, as does the city of Yellowknife have an entitlement for growth. Unfortunately, I would never like to see them conflict. That being said, would the Premier assure me that he's working towards a mediation process or even just being there to help assist this process, so no stalemate ever exists between these two groups, so the City of Yellowknife is not forced to go back to gobbling up their nature preserves for residential development? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 69-15(4): Role Of GNWT In Land Negotiations Between The City Of Yellowknife And The Yellowknives Band

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is no need for a mediation process. It's working effectively now. To my understanding, all the parties are working in accordance with the agreements that we have and I'm optimistic, in fact I'm fairly certain that there will be an agreement of how to accommodate everyone's needs; the needs of the Yellowknives Dene and their rights to land, as well as the needs of the city.

Madam Speaker, I might add that even though the city has prepared and had approval of a general plan, I don't know of them ever asking for residential land. I wouldn't want people to believe that somehow things are being held up here, because I don't believe there has been a request for residential land from the city. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 69-15(4): Role Of GNWT In Land Negotiations Between The City Of Yellowknife And The Yellowknives Band

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess what I'm getting at is the City of Yellowknife may feel the pressure of the Yellowknives Dene and their right to entitlement of land, so maybe they haven't applied for those particular lands, recognizing there is a right. Yet the City of Yellowknife is going back and looking seriously at its nature preserves and its green space. I'm looking for the Premier to make sure he plays a role in this process. I'm asking the Premier in his capacity of possibly Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to make sure that the selection process goes forward and we can get that moving along again so the city of Yellowknife isn't impeded in its growth. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 69-15(4): Role Of GNWT In Land Negotiations Between The City Of Yellowknife And The Yellowknives Band

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Speaker, I wouldn't want the public to believe that somehow the city is doing an in-fill study, if that's what it's called -- and I'm not familiar with the detail of it -- because they can't get any land for residential development. The fact is they have not applied to us for more residential land. I believe the in-fill study they're doing is simply a study they're doing as part of

their planning for the city and that's something that's totally within the mandate of the city. It's something we wouldn't get involved in. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. I wasn't getting a sense whether this was if the city applied for land and if the city applies for land would the Premier be involved. It's a hypothetical question. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 70-15(4): NWT Exemption From Goods And Services Tax

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier. Madam Speaker, the Northern Strategy that we've talked numerous times about in this House and in the Great Hall of this Assembly sets out some guiding principles and it does recognize the fact that we have unique challenges here in Northern Canada. I've mentioned, in this House, tax credits, trust funds, and, today, exemption from the GST as ways that we can get a competitive edge on attracting and retaining residents. We've been waiting quite patiently some 13 years for the federal government to come up with this Northern Strategy. I'd like to ask the Premier today if he could start a dialogue with Ottawa on exempting the Northwest Territories from paying the goods and services tax. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Return To Question 70-15(4): NWT Exemption From Goods And Services Tax

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Speaker, either myself or, more appropriately, the Minister of Finance may want to raise those issues with the federal Finance Minister or with the Minister responsible for the CCRA. The point is an interesting one. It has implications that are good. It also has implications that are not something we would welcome necessarily. But, yes, I think we're always open to doing that, whether it's with GST or different ways of doing taxes or whatever it may be that is more beneficial to northerners. We recognize the high cost of living and doing business and the need to attract people to live here and do business here. So creative ideas we take very seriously. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 70-15(4): NWT Exemption From Goods And Services Tax

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier what exactly his government is doing to address the high cost of living to the residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 70-15(4): NWT Exemption From Goods And Services Tax

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That's a bit of a different question, Madam Speaker. Rather than get into the detail of what we are doing in the taxation area, I think the question deals with a whole list of

things that have been included in our first budget and in the last budget. Madam Speaker, taxation and tax benefits are one piece of it. Our government did make changes, the last government, the 14th Assembly, to the way personal income tax is handled. I think that was beneficial to everyone. We have increased the cost of living allowance. We've made those kinds of changes.

Madam Speaker, there are also issues that we think are much broader. For example, we've done a lot of work on promoting hydro development as a way of getting the cost of living down, as another example. Madam Speaker, it's a very broad question and I could stand here for two hours and list the things we have been doing, but I don't think that's what the Member wants right now. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 70-15(4): NWT Exemption From Goods And Services Tax

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am sure the Premier and the Finance Minister do get the point that I am getting at, which is the fact that anything in this Northern Strategy and anything I have seen since becoming a Member of this Legislative Assembly, the only thing I have seen is us raising taxes. I don't believe we have taken a good, solid look at how we can decrease the cost of living on our residents. I know other countries around the world have identified certain areas of their country as economic areas of development and things of that nature. I don't know why the federal government wouldn't look at Northern Canada as having a similar feel and take a look at us as being different and respect the fact that it does cost more to live in the Northwest Territories and in the other two territories, as well. I would like to ask the Premier if he will take this issue seriously. I do believe the Premier will take it seriously and take it up with the other two northern Premiers and at least start a dialogue on what the federal government can do to help reduce the high cost of living in the three northern territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 70-15(4): NWT Exemption From Goods And Services Tax

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Speaker, yes, I will take that very seriously and so do the other northern Premiers. I will raise it again with them. I have to say that the Prime Minister has shown a lot of personal interest in the Northern Strategy and I know that he is also interested. Yes, I will follow up with this, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 71-15(4): Role Of Education In Addictions Programming

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education. I was at a briefing today with respect to tobacco addictions, Madam Speaker. I was thinking in addictions overall, how much of a role does our Education department play in the

curriculum of teaching our children about addictions? How much time do we have set aside in our education system, Madam Speaker, with respect to teaching our children about addictions?

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

Return To Question 71-15(4): Role Of Education In Addictions Programming

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I can't answer the question as to how many minutes or hours might be involved, but I can say that our curriculum includes the teaching of issues around addictions starting from the earliest grades. There is a much heavier emphasis in the health curriculum by the time students get to the junior high level and then it carries on into the high school. It is something that is included in all levels of schooling in the discussions. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 71-15(4): Role Of Education In Addictions Programming

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am aware of some of the initiatives, particularly by the RCMP or the Justice department in terms of the DARE program. I am just wondering about some of the content about what is available to our youth in the schools. I recently quit smoking cigarettes...

---Applause

...and many years ago I had a personal battle with alcohol and I was able to deal with that by myself. I was just thinking does our curriculum or some of the things we are teaching our children help them know where to turn for help. Is that within what we are teaching them, Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister Dent.

Further Return To Question 71-15(4): Role Of Education In Addictions Programming

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The curriculum focuses on helping young people understand how to make healthy choices. Healthy choices include how to make choices around issues of alcohol, drugs and tobacco. Yes, there is a discussion included around where to get assistance and how to get assistance if that is needed. Many of our schools have incorporated counselling, not just career counselling, but counselling within the schools to help young people so they have a resource, a person they can talk to about making those healthy choices. For instance, in Norman Wells they have brought a regular counsellor into the school system and it's really made a positive change in the behaviour in the schools, they have found, including how children are interacting with the law. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 71-15(4): Role Of Education In Addictions Programming

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Is it the priority of this government to continue with the expansion of these programs if they feel it's necessary? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister Dent.

Further Return To Question 71-15(4): Role Of Education In Addictions Programming

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I said, this is definitely part of the curriculum already. It's something we can work on with our partners in the education system to find out if we need to strengthen the resources that are available. If they do, we will certainly look to do that. We do encourage the schools to take advantage of partnerships with the RCMP, Health and Social Services and other caregivers in the communities to make sure the resources are brought into the classroom to help with this whole process. Thank you.

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

Question 72-15(4): All-Weather Road For The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in my statement, I quoted John Diefenbaker's vision to the northern frontier, building roads. In John Diefenbaker's roads in the past 30 years of that vision being voiced in Ottawa, I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation if he could outline a brief strategy of his department's intentions to move on building an all-weather road in the Sahtu region. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 72-15(4): All-Weather Road For The Sahtu

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, like the Member, we share Mr. Diefenbaker's vision to see an all-weather road along the Mackenzie Valley.

---Applause

However, the final decision is not ours to make. We continue to seek funding to improve the road system, extend the season and put the bridge into the Mackenzie Valley winter road. However, we need the federal government onside to provide the dollars to bring it to the point where it is an all-weather road. It's something we strive towards. We've used every avenue that we have to bring that message to Ottawa. We have included it in our long-term strategy. We have a document called Investing in Roads that was put together in 2000 that has the strategy in there to include the Mackenzie Valley winter road, the Tuk road and all other roads that are needed in the NWT.

We are also dealing with this road when we discuss the resource development impacts that are happening in the Northwest Territories. We have raised it with the pipeline proponents. We have increasing meetings with all

developers in the area to see if we can partner with them to raise some funds.

We are also developing a new proposal that we will be sharing with committee that looks at putting a request in to the federal government again along the same lines as the Corridors for Canada.

We also had our Premier raise this issue at his Western Premiers Conference. So we are using every avenue we have out there to bring the message to the federal government and we certainly agree with the Member that this is a well needed structured road that has to be continued to be improved to the point where it's an all-weather road. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 72-15(4): All-Weather Road For The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Maybe this government can do one for old Diefenbaker's vision here and push it over the hill, so we can get an all-weather road in the Sahtu and have the federal government give us full support and attention to this matter. Can the Minister advise of any type of public consultation that his department has undertaken with the people of the Sahtu to build an all-weather road in the Sahtu region?

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

Further Return To Question 72-15(4): All-Weather Road For The Sahtu

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Speaker, we have had several meetings in the Member's riding. We have been there on a very regular basis over this past year. The issue of an all-weather road or the condition of the Mackenzie Valley winter road has come up on more than one occasion at every meeting. It's a huge concern. It's a significant cost factor. That's something that we recognize. We've also, as part of our consultation, contacted the stakeholders with our proposal, our new draft of our proposal, including the Member. He will be receiving a copy of this proposal. We are also contacting the chamber of commerce and the trucking association. So we are trying to contact as many people as we can to get some feedback to see if everyone is in agreement that we are on the right track. So that consultation process is ongoing and we will be packaging it up sometime later on this year to bring it forward to the federal government for consideration.

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

Supplementary To Question 72-15(4): All-Weather Road For The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, regarding the consultation, is there a specific forum that the people in the Sahtu can get together and talk about the strategy and an all-weather road in the Sahtu? I appreciate the Minister's steady trips into the Sahtu and the people appreciate that. What I am looking for, Madam Speaker, is that the Minister can have a specific forum so people in the Sahtu can get together and

talk specifically about an all-weather road strategy into the Sahtu so the Minister can take notice and put it into a package for the federal government. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 72-15(4): All-Weather Road For The Sahtu

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Speaker, we are in the process of updating our long-term strategy. The document Investing in Roads was put together in 2000 with consultation with all regions. It's something we would like to update this year. As part of that, we will be talking with the community leaders and we are also hosting a conference, or we just recently hosted a get together with the contractors and some of the people who work for us and do the maintenance on it to see what we can do in terms of improvement.

As for the Department of Transportation to hold a conference, I don't think that's something we were planning to do and I don't know if that's something I would be interested in doing at this point. We have gathered a lot of information over the years. We know the different costs that are required to build roads in the Dogrib region, in the Sahtu or in the Beaufort-Delta. So we have the information. We know there is a need there; we just need to find the right avenue to get the federal government to agree to fund it. That's what we are doing. If there is a need by the Member for us to have a meeting or specific community meetings, we would be happy to do that as we continue to travel into his riding. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 72-15(4): All-Weather Road For The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. With the Minister continuing to travel into the communities, hopefully one day he will be able to drive into our communities. The Sahtu is having an annual gathering in August in Colville Lake. I would invite the Minister to that meeting and have a meeting there with the people. Would the Minister consider looking at this type of meeting with our people in terms of bringing the solution to the Sahtu who know the solution: Build the road that can be done over a number of years by using a community approach method and connect all the communities in the Sahtu before connecting down south? This year, I understand there is going to be about \$60 million going into the economy of the Sahtu with oil and gas. I think it's about time the federal government, through the Minister, pays high attention to building an all-weather road in the Sahtu. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I think it was a question in response to an invitation to come to a gathering in the Sahtu. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 72-15(4): All-Weather Road For The Sahtu

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, we are always very interested and happy to go into the Sahtu, as we have demonstrated over this past year. Anytime we go to the community,

many issues come up and the road, I am sure, will be at the top of the list. We have heard the message from the Member. We have heard the message from his communities that connecting the communities is a very important role. There are other areas in the NWT that need also to be given some attention to be able to connect and improve transportation links within the community. That is an area we will be focussing on as we draft our proposals. We will keep that in consideration. Rather than focus strictly on reconstruction as a result of high pressures from resource development, this time around we will take into consideration the need to have good transportation links amongst our communities and that will be part of our focus. Thank you.

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

Question 73-15(4): Status Of 2004-05 Funding Approval For Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Minister of Finance and this is in relation to the decision to move the Territorial Treatment Centre to Hay River. Madam Speaker, this Assembly in the last fiscal year, 2004-05, approved an expenditure for the Territorial Treatment Centre here in Yellowknife. I wonder if the Minister could give us a bit of background. What was the amount of money that was approved and what was the status of that project as approved by this Assembly for the last fiscal year? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 73-15(4): Status Of 2004-05 Funding Approval For Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The money that was approved in 2004-05 for the Territorial Treatment Centre and subsequently brought forward this year would lapse and as we are doing now, the money has now been identified through the supplementary appropriation that is going to come before this House and will be dealt with in that fashion, requesting the Assembly to approve the change in designation of those funds. Those funds were identified for the facility, Territorial Treatment Centre, in Yellowknife. To move that money now to upgrade that facility would require approval of this Assembly. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 73-15(4): Status Of 2004-05 Funding Approval For Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When a plan is brought before the Assembly and approval is given, there is an expectation that it will happen or that at least an explanation will be provided in a timely manner why it's not happening. Until a few days ago, Madam Speaker, this House was not aware that the plans to invest that money in the TTC here in Yellowknife had been changed. Can the Minister explain why this Assembly, and certainly at least the Members for Yellowknife, were not made aware of the stoppage of a

major program approved by this House? Why didn't he tell us about it? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 73-15(4): Status Of 2004-05 Funding Approval For Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the project as was outlined in the budget and as the budget is approved, there are expectations from communities and those who have been working on the project of that project moving ahead. There are many projects we can use as examples of a project being on the capital plan and even to the point where you see identified for the next fiscal coming up is then deleted from that program because of other issues that have come up. In this case, the Department of Health and Social Services came forward to FMB and Cabinet to identify changes in plans and had brought forward the material to request the change and a designation. That has been given and now we are following through as required by the process that we have in place of informing the House as well as seeking approval for moving those dollars that were approved. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 73-15(4): Status Of 2004-05 Funding Approval For Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are about two months into the new fiscal year now. There must have been some months in the past fiscal year that the government had new information and changed its mind about something but didn't tell us. Will the Minister tell this Assembly today what was it, several months ago obviously, that caused Cabinet to change its mind about the investment in the TTC here in Yellowknife? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 73-15(4): Status Of 2004-05 Funding Approval For Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the process that we use as a Cabinet and FMB when Ministers would come forward with plans or changes in plans, they would have to come and address their changes to us and seek our approval. In this case, a facility was being considered for a major retrofit or replacement and the estimates that are put into the document, in the budget we vote on, are class D estimates and are still subject to change.

As another facility had become available in the territory and looking at the decentralization aspect of government as well as how we conduct our business, this was brought forward and approval was sought through FMB and we received it. That is why we find ourselves as we are today with the request coming forward through a supplementary for a change in designation of that money. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 73-15(4): Status Of 2004-05 Funding Approval For Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Okay. I have the picture on the process here, but I am really looking for the substantiation, Madam Speaker, and the reason that Cabinet accepted the proposal from Health and Social Services, Madam Speaker, without looking for other options or other viable proposals for the use the Dene K'onion facility; obviously a good building, but we have learned requiring substantial new renovations. Was there no thought of looking for other options by which this facility could be utilized? Why was the TTC centre seemingly, Madam Speaker, automatically chosen for this task? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 73-15(4): Status Of 2004-05 Funding Approval For Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as the process unfolded and the Minister had come forward with this plan and one other department had declared this space as not being used in the future for government purposes and looking at the plans, at that point the plan had come forward to change communities for the Territorial Treatment Centre. On the basis of the information provided to us, we reviewed it and had approved the plan to proceed. On that basis, we have now come forward with the plan and are asking for approval of this Assembly in moving those dollars. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Roland. I just want to draw to the Members' attention that to speak about the Territorial Treatment Centre in the broader context is obviously no problem in question period. However, when referring to it within the context of its inclusion in the supplementary appropriation which is going to be before Committee of the Whole today, in the specific reference that debate may be better left to Committee of the Whole. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 74-15(4): Lapse Of Allocated Funding For GNWT Projects

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my questions are also to the Minister of Finance and it is not in regard to an item before the Committee of the Whole, but in regard to the budget for 2004-05 which has passed. It is in regard to the money for TTC. Madam Speaker, it is only yesterday, I believe, I finally figured out that the money that this Assembly had voted on, as Mr. Braden had stated, \$2.4 million was in fact not spent. It was last November that the government started looking at the possibility of moving this. My general question is how do we as MLAs have any confidence that the money we vote for, for a capital project for something as big as \$2.4 million, is going to stay there and get done as it was meant to be? How could a Member for Nahendeh be confident that if he ever managed to get money for the gym in his small community -- for granny from Nahanni...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Ever.

MS. LEE: ...how could he ever be certain that thing is going to be built and that the government is not going to just put it off and just let it lapse and then change its

mind? How can we do our jobs in that way? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Good.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 74-15(4): Lapse Of Allocated Funding For GNWT Projects

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the budget as it's laid out and is brought before this House and voted upon gives the government the authority to spend the money on the projects identified. If those projects do not proceed in a timely fashion, then we come back to this Assembly and in the form of a supplementary appropriation to record the amount of capital carryovers for O and M money that was not used in the fiscal year it was identified and we request the carryover. That happens on an annual basis. One of the first bills we bring before this House in a supplementary document is capital carryovers because for one reason or another, whether it is delay in the planning or a change in the scope of the project or not being able to find a contractor that will do the job with the dollars identified, the project gets delayed and we have to seek approval from this Assembly to carry that money over for those projects. That happens on a regular basis.

As well, in this particular project, when this money was identified and carried over from past years, it was, I believe, at that point known that there were other facilities being looked at as possible areas to move this centre into. One of those would have been the Somba K'e facility that is on the outskirts of Yellowknife. The department was looking at other possible locations already to try and see if it could come up with a facility that would work. As this opportunity it had come available, the department had looked at that and has done some feasibility work in that area and has brought it forward. On that basis, we have accepted it and are now again coming before this Assembly for approval for moving the dollars. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 74-15(4): Lapse Of Allocated Funding For GNWT Projects

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I learned via some people in the TTC that apparently DPW came by and poked about 82 holes in this building and never really came back and told them what was right or wrong with this building. In the meantime, the political masters are trying to figure out what to do with this.

I would like to state, Madam Speaker, when we are debating the budget in this House, Ministers fight tooth and nail for every dollar. Members on this side cannot change anything. They convince us that they need this; the sky will fall if it just doesn't get approved. Then we get told a year later we never spent it. There were all sorts of reasons why we could not spend it and we want to change it. Does the Minister, as the Minister responsible for public financing, think that that is the right way to approve and spend expenditures in this Assembly? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Finance. That question borders on asking your opinion about processes and policies that are already in place with respect to financial administration, but I will let you answer the question.

Further Return To Question 74-15(4): Lapse Of Allocated Funding For GNWT Projects

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I guess to stick to the process, we have followed the rules that are in place. From time to time the Ministers' departments have need to change the plan that has been presented before the House and it has to come back to this House for approval. At this stage, a political decision has been made and agreed to, but now to move the actual dollars we need the approval of this House. We're following the rules that are set out and we're seeking the approval of this Assembly. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 74-15(4): Lapse of Allocated Funding for GNWT Projects

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm glad to see that the Minister is straightforward enough to admit that this was a political decision, because I was thinking that listening to the Minister's answers. Of course there will be situations where capital projects cannot proceed. We could miss the barge deadline, we could have all sorts of administrative and logistical problems where the construction cannot proceed, but I don't think people out there are happy to see a capital project being moved around for political reasons. Even if the government spends \$5,000 over, they have to report to us. Would the Minister consider changing the rules so that there cannot be under-expenditure or lapsing of money for as much as 2.4 million? Maybe the limit should be \$500,000 and if you don't spend it, you lose it. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 74-15(4): Lapse of Allocated Funding for GNWT Projects

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I think in this arena and on the floor of this House we would be silly to say that decisions made in this House were not political ones. That is the nature of the environment we are in and decisions are made based on departments bringing forward substantiation for it. As for changing the rules to only limit \$500,000 for being lapsed or carried over and lapsing the rest, we'd find ourselves in the situation we are today. As the year ended, that money would have lapsed. We would have to come forward; the departments would have to come forward for substantiation of a new project. In fact, in this particular case, the substantiation will go forward as we go into the next business plan rounds and budget development because it is, again, future years, but the initial planning money is being asked for through the supplementary appropriation document from this House. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 74-15(4): Lapse of Allocated Funding for GNWT Projects

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it's absolutely appalling, Madam Speaker, that the Minister would say that for political reasons, not even in this House but on the Cabinet table, that they could move a capital project as big as \$2.4 million for political reasons. I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance, as a Finance Minister in charge of numbers, whether he's asked for any information in making his decision about what extra costs would be for the government in moving this program. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 74-15(4): Lapse of Allocated Funding for GNWT Projects

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as any Minister would bring forward, if it is the request, the approval of dollars would come to the FMB table if it is approval seeking direction, other than that it would go to the Cabinet table. In this case this has come to both. The information provided by the Minister requesting this was to proceed with this track and it was granted on the basis of then going forward and getting the approvals of this Assembly through the financial process, and that's what we're into right now. Thank you.

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

Question 75-15(4): Dust Control Practices For The NWT

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question today is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It is in regard to an issue that has been really important in the community of Lutselk'e and has been brought forward to the Minister in the past number of years with regard to dust control...

---Laughter

...the control and the level of dust in Lutselk'e. Now the dust bowl that is created in the community of Lutselk'e, because of the prevailing summer winds and the landscape in the East Arm area, makes for a perfect spot where the community is that you can see it when you are flying over there. Just the amount of dust that gets raised from a simple breeze coming off the lake, and people in the community have a lot of health issues with respect to dust control with the seniors and the children too. I just want to ask the Minister since there is no dedicated funding provided to the community of Lutselk'e in their O and M budget to curb the dust control problem that they have there, and it is up to the community to determine the appropriate amounts to spend out of their O and M budgets on dust control and I'm sure the community would spend all of their budget on dust control if they had that option available to them, but then they would have no money for other essential services in the community. Can the Minister answer the question of when will the report on best practices for dust control in the NWT be available to the House? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 75-15(4): Dust Control Practices For The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the document is completed. We have not had an opportunity to sit down and review the findings. As soon as we have that opportunity, I will be pleased to share that with the Members of this House. I'm anticipating that to be sometime next week. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 75-15(4): Dust Control Practices For The NWT

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's good to know that the report has been completed and that the department will be reviewing it. I guess just based on the findings of the report I know there's going to be some communities that will have really severe dust levels that have been reported in the report; other communities not so bad. I want to know what measure the department is going to take. When they review the report, are they going to include extra funding to the communities that have really high levels of dust during the summer months? How is the department going to address the issue? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 75-15(4): Dust Control Practices For The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Speaker, it's difficult to respond to that question. I don't know what the options or the solutions are that the contractor is recommending at this point. The issue of dust is a serious concern in all the communities across the North. Whether it is a large centre or a small centre, it's an issue that we need to be able to deal with. We'd like to be able to look at the findings and respond accordingly. If there's a need for additional resources to implement some of these programs, then we'd certainly look at that and include it in our plan for next year or if there is any avenue to include it with some new dollars that may come forward. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 75-15(4): Dust Control Practices For The NWT

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess the whole issue is getting down to the dollars and cents. I just want to make sure that the Minister is acknowledging the fact that there are some communities that have severe levels of dust, and other communities aren't so bad. I want to make sure that the Minister is going to prioritize communities that have a severe problem where issues have been coming forward to this House year after year with respect to the high levels of dust around there and to this day really nothing has been done. So I just want to make sure that the Minister is well

aware that Lutselk'e should be put on a high priority list, because I think it has one of the highest levels of dust in the NWT. With regard to that, I want to ask the Minister when is Lutselk'e slated to get their main street chipsealed to kind of alleviate a little bit of this dust problem? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 75-15(4): Dust Control Practices For The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I certainly can't agree with the Member's comments that we haven't done anything on dust control. The responsibility for dust control is built into the community government formula allocation. That's part of their responsibilities for operations. Dust control is factored in. So each community has included in their budget some dollars for dust suppression. We've also undertaken to provide a main street chipsealing program that has been in the works for several years now. We have a long list of communities. I don't have it in front of me, but I would be pleased to provide that to the Member. We have undertaken to do a study in all the different communities on the different ways that we can deal with the dust issue and that information will come forward. We'll certainly give strong consideration to the Member's riding when we put together a plan of action and that's something that we will be doing. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 75-15(4): Dust Control Practices For The NWT

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Maybe I'm getting conflicting information here, but I've got a note here, Madam Speaker, that is right from the Minister's office that says unfortunately there is no dedicated funding provided to Lutselk'e for dust control. So I don't know where the Minister is getting the idea that it's built into their O and M budget, because he's saying right here that there's no dedicated funding in O and M for dust control for Lutselk'e and it's up to the community to spend whatever it feels is appropriate out of their O and M budget, which makes no specific reference for dust control dollars. So maybe the Minister can provide me with some better breakdown of the O and M budget and show me how much money the community has at its leisure to spend on dust control and how much the government would allow them to spend. If the Minister can provide that, I'd surely love to see those numbers. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 75-15(4): Dust Control Practices For The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Member is correct; there is no budget line that states an amount earmarked for dust control. Dust control is factored in as part of the formula and that money comes forward as a block fund. We do not tell the communities how to spend their money. If

Lutselk'e wants to spend their money on dust control or a recreation officer, that's up to them to put the priority and investment where they see fit. We don't tell the communities how to invest their money. We want the communities to make their own decisions, and if that money is not spent, in this case as the Member has indicated, on dust control, that's not something we can direct the communities to do or intervene with. That is the community's decision. Thank you.

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

Question 76-15(4): Accuracy Of Information Provided By The NWT HC

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, on March 9th I submitted a written question to the Minister of Housing in regard to information about the EDAP program. The reasoning behind that is because there is an urban legend out there about crazy amounts being given to people. On April 7th I had a great response from the Minister referring to the area I was specifically asking about, which was Yellowknife. It pointed out many detailed pieces of information in Yellowknife. All along I've been asking about the transparency issue and why are we giving such large dollars to so few. That's all I've been asking, that's strictly the point. I've been waiting for that information about the transparency to justify those large dollars to, again, so few. So that letter came under signature from the Minister, yet I'm hearing out there in the media that this information is incorrect. So I've been asking these questions for over a week and no one has come down to my office, which is 200 feet away from the Minister's office, to tell me that there were some errors or possibly clerical errors in this information.

Madam Speaker, this affects my work here in the House, it affects the process. So, Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister is, is the letter addressed on April 7th absolutely correct and if there are some small clerical errors in this, would the Minister be willing to update this to the most accurate information as possible if any errors were made whatsoever? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Return To Question 76-15(4): Accuracy Of Information Provided By The NWT HC

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have checked back with the corporation to look at the numbers that have been mentioned in this House and I was made aware by the department that there has been errors in the numbers that were entered. Basically they use a code system and the code that was used was for new construction in regard to EDAP housing. After checking into it, there has been no new construction for EDAP housing in Yellowknife since the year 2000. So because there has been no new construction for new EDAP housing, that is the error in the information that was provided to the Member. I have looked into that and I was hoping to have a chance to sit down with the Member and discuss this, but apparently he released the information. So I am stating it here. I am doing an interview with the media to make them clear that that information was a clerical error where it was put into

the wrong category using the wrong entry code for that information. So there is no new EDAP construction dollars for Yellowknife in those years prior to the year 2000.

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

Supplementary To Question 76-15(4): Accuracy Of Information Provided By The NWT HC

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I want to applaud the Minister for clarifying that because no one is above making an error, and certainly a clerical error could happen to anyone out there, and I'm certainly not perfect myself. That being said, this whole issue about the transparency of this program, I'm still trying to get justification as to why we give such large grants to so few. So, Madam Speaker, I ask the question to the Minister, why are we giving such large grants to so few and would he provide those details of transparency so we can move forward on this issue? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 76-15(4): Accuracy Of Information Provided By The NWT HC

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would just like to remind the Member that we do have to ensure that we follow up the ATIPP confidential information, not to disclose information that is classified as confidential or of a personal nature. So I would just like to remind the Member we cannot provide information that is confidential or basically has a disclosure on those contractual agreements or mortgages that are in place. There's certain information that cannot be released to Members.

Just in regard to the Member's question, Madam Speaker, I tried to explain this the last number of days. The whole idea of EDAP was to assist people to move from public housing into home ownership. It's for those people who are social clients. Once they get a job and are able to sustain themselves and they can show that they are paying their rent and they are able to maintain some sort of home ownership, then we basically move to those clients. The first offers were supposed to be given to those clients. So I would just like to mention to the Member that it may seem to be a little high, but it's based on where you require a house. So I think it is important that we realize that the whole EDAP program was originally intended for low income people and a decision was made three years ago to allow communities such as Yellowknife, Inuvik and Hay River to expand a little more for those people looking for down payment assistance to get a first mortgage because the cost of development was so high they could not afford it. The whole intent of the program is to assist people with low incomes, get them out of public housing and be able to get them into home ownership. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 76-15(4): Accuracy Of Information Provided By The NWTHC

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll recognize the Minister's passion for getting people out of public housing into personal home ownership but before we move on too far, I would like to hear from the Minister because we did talk about that \$109,000. If the Minister could clarify exactly when they realized when there was a clerical error and why they didn't come down to my office immediately to clarify this, because this has been an issue out there for a week. A lot of people are very concerned about this. So when did this information come forward to the Minister that the letter he had sent to me under his signature had a clerical error and why they didn't come and clarify this with me immediately? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 76-15(4): Accuracy Of Information Provided By The NWTHC

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I took the information two days ago to the people at the Housing Corporation and asked them for clarification on the information that was mentioned in this House in regard to numbers that were mentioned by the Member. During that time, that is when they made it clear to me that those dollars were not expended in Yellowknife for new construction in regard to EDAP. So it's a matter of the information getting back to the Member. I was in the process because I know that there is a confidential matter now that we have to consider that not having this information revealed to the public, which could jeopardize our ATIPP responsibilities to ensure we protect the interests and the information. It is private and I cannot release it to anyone who may have it out there in the public. So that was a concern that we had. We wanted to make sure that we were aboveboard and we were not breaching any responsibilities that we have. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. A brief final supplementary and a brief answer. We have more people on the list and we have only made it through eight sets of questions in the last hour. Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 76-15(4): Accuracy Of Information Provided By The NWTHC

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I didn't get satisfaction on the answer. Why didn't the Minister, if he identified there was a mistake or a clerical error in the information, rush down to my office or send a note down to say there was a small mistake and we pause this issue for one moment until we get clear absolute numbers? Why didn't I get that note on Monday if he says it appeared two days ago? Why didn't he slow the process down, because I certainly would have given him the gracious opportunity to get the absolute number? Why didn't he come speak to me about that? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 76-15(4): Accuracy of Information Provided by the NWTHC

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I think because the information that the Member is talking about showed up in the hands of the press, I felt that it wasn't for me to release any more information until I was sure that I was following aboveboard that this information was not going to be released publicly and that we also realize whether we're breaching ATIPP legislation. So I had to ensure the protection of the clients were first ensured, that their information did not fall into the wrong envelope that would have ended up somewhere else. Thank you.

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

Question 77-15(4): BC-NWT Health Authorities Interjurisdictional Agreement

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the honourable Minister of Health and Social Services with respect to the proceedings between the NWT and B.C. health authorities interjurisdictional agreement that I requested back in the fall. I'm just wondering if there's any progress or if there's anything being done in this regard to help the residents of Fort Liard and their needs of accessing health in B.C. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 77-15(4): BC-NWT Health Authorities Interjurisdictional Agreement

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have talked about the issue with the deputy minister, as well as the CEO of the Deh Cho health authority and she's confirmed that in the past there was an arrangement, and I've indicated to her that we should look at trying to revise our current arrangement where things are done through Stanton to make them aware of that particular circumstance and recognize the unique situation the Member has talked about in this House between Fort Liard and Fort Nelson. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 77-15(4): BC-NWT Health Authorities Interjurisdictional Agreement

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Here is another example of where we're supposed to be getting something moving on this so I tell the residents of Fort Liard that we're going to be looking at this and addressing those needs, that it doesn't make financial sense to drive two hours and then fly all the way to Yellowknife to get their needs met. Recently I was back in Fort Liard and people with medical conditions were telling me I have to go all the way to Yellowknife to say yes, I have knee problems. If they can do that, if they can get this agreement off the ground or at least discussions going as soon as possible, I'm sure we can get better service for the needs of the residents of Fort Liard, Madam Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 77-15(4): BC-NWT Health Authorities Interjurisdictional Agreement

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'll commit -- and I appreciate the time delay and frustration -- to having the issue resolved by the end of June and I'll keep the Member informed. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Time for question period has lapsed. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Yakeleya is requesting unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Yakeleya. You may recognize your visitors.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the Sahtu powerhouse negotiating team for self-government. I'd like to recognize Danny Gaudet, chief negotiator for Deline self-government.

---Applause

I'd like to recognize O'khi Leon Modeste, elder.

---Applause

A former chief and constituent of mine and a good worker, Andrew John Kenny, the young elder.

---Applause

Elder Alfred Taniton from Deline.

---Applause

Learning to be an elder, Morris Neyelle.

---Applause

And a young elder, Fredrick Kenny.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER: Welcome. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Carrying on then, item 7, written questions. Item 8, return 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. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 12-15(4): Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program Policy

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Madam Speaker, I'd like to table the following document entitled Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program Policy. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 13-15(4): Fair Practices Office Annual Report

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Fair Practices Office Annual Report, January 1 to June 30, 2004. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 14-15(4): Annual Report On The Activities Of The Rental Office

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Madam Speaker, I also wish to table the following document entitled Annual Report on the Activities of the Rental Office, 2004. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Sorry, item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Braden.

Tabled Document 15-15(4): Yellowknife Catholic Schools Letter To Bill Braden

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have four documents I would like to table related to the transfer of the Territorial Treatment Centre. One is a letter addressed to me from the chair of the Yellowknife catholic school board.

Tabled Document 16-15(4): History/Chronology Of Territorial Treatment Centre

Another is a Department of Health and Social Services briefing note dated May 31st, 2005.

Tabled Document 17-15(4): Program Fit To Dene K'onia Facility, Hay River, NT (TTC) Project

There is an architectural survey entitled Children's Territorial Treatment Centre Program Fit to Dene K'onia Facility dated, I believe that's the 10th of December 2004.

Tabled Document 18-15(4): Residential Treatment Facilities For Children

And another briefing note from the Department of Health and Social Services dated November 24th, 2004. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Mr. Pokiak.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a motion on the appointment of information and privacy commissioner.

Motion 1-15(4): Appointment Of Information And Privacy Commissioner

WHEREAS section 61 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act permits the appointment of an Information and Privacy Commissioner by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories after the approval of appointment by resolution of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly considers the appointment of an Information and Privacy Commissioner essential to exercise the powers and perform the duties under the act;

AND WHEREAS the term of the Information and Privacy Commissioner will expire on June 30, 2005;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that appointment of an Information and Privacy Commissioner should now be made to be effective on July 1st, 2005;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the pursuant to section 61 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act that Elaine Keenan-Bengts be appointed as Information and Privacy Commissioner;

AND FURTHER that appointment be effective July 1, 2005.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS**Bill 1: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006**

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 1 has had first reading. Item 18, second reading of bills.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS**Bill 1: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006**

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006, be read for the second time.

Madam Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2005-06 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 1 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to Committee of the Whole. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006, with Mr. Pokiak in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. We have one item before Committee of the Whole: Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to consider Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Is that agreed by committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): At this time, can we take a short recess?

---Applause

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): We are now in Committee of the Whole to deal with Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he has any opening comments.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I am here to introduce Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006. This bill requests authority for additional appropriations of \$21.342 million for operations expenditures and \$32.002 million for capital investment expenditures in the 2005-06 fiscal year.

Major items included in this request for operations expenditures are as follows:

1. \$16.1 million for the Department of Executive, Financial Management Board Secretariat, for the resources associated with the human resource amalgamation. Of this amount, \$14.8 million was transferred from other departments;
2. \$3.2 million for the Department of Health and Social Services for the additional costs incurred for the provision of hospital services for NWT residents in hospitals outside of the NWT;
3. \$2.2 million for initiatives to prepare for the Mackenzie gas project, as follows:
 - \$1.3 million for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to provide contribution funding to assist communities to prepare for the project and participate in the review process;
 - \$440,000 for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs for three community benefits agreements specialist positions and a community benefits coordinator position to help communities identify issues, anticipated impacts and strategies;
 - \$378,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services for three regional workshops to examine anticipated social impacts and initiate collaborative planning to monitor and mitigate these impacts; and,
 - \$110,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services for a social impacts coordinator position for a two-year term to coordinate the community monitoring and mitigation of the social impacts.

The operational funding request also includes \$2.8 million for contribution funding for the continuation of infrastructure projects not completed in the 2004-05 fiscal period. Funding for these projects was approved and lapsed in 2004-05.

The operations funding requests are within the 2005-06 supplementary reserve.

The major request for capital investment expenditures is \$29.5 million in capital carryovers from the 2004-05 fiscal year.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort in the witnesses.

For the record, Mr. Minister, would you please introduce your witness?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Chairman, with me today is Lew Voytilla, secretary to the FMB.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. First on the list is Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have general comments on the opening statement, but I do have some questions on the proposed expenditure to prepare for the Mackenzie gas project of \$1.3 million for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and \$378,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services. Certainly this is something that many individuals and groups across the Territories have been asking for the government to do. I know the government has been trying to get the federal government to perhaps take over a bigger burden of it and the GNWT has been left with no choice but to put some money in there. So it is certainly a good thing, but as I sit here I have hardly any detail about where this money is going to go. I understand the time frame for the workshops that the Department of Health and Social Services are planning on are quite short. Perhaps even the end of June might be the targeted completion date. Can the Minister give us any information, perhaps a framework or terms of reference? How does the government see this thing rolled out?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one part of the ask that we put forward in the supplementary appropriation belongs to the Department of Health and Social Services. The other part belongs to Municipal and Community Affairs. The ask from the Department of Health and Social Services for the conference is \$378,000. Indeed, the conferences are to be held during the month of June in Norman Wells, Inuvik and Fort Simpson. I guess the report will be brought back to the Minister at that point. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: I am sorry, I didn't catch all that. Does the Minister have the dates of when this will happen, other than it will happen in June? It is June 1st.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. I heard him say sometime in June, but can he be more specific in terms of days? Mr. Minister. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health and Social Services has that information available. He can probably better respond to that.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to put out, as well, that Health and Social Services is acting in this capacity as sort of the current chair of the social envelope Ministers meeting or committee which includes Education, Culture and Employment and Housing and Justice, as well. This is a collaborative effort to get direct feedback and recommendations from the impacted communities on the impending Mackenzie gas pipeline.

There is a workshop that was held earlier this week; yesterday, Monday and Tuesday, I believe, in Fort Simpson. There is one next week in Inuvik and then in the third week in June in Norman Wells, after which we will be collating all the recommendations and bring that back to the committee of Ministers for review and they will be sharing that information as well with, of course, the members of the Social Programs committee. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Mr. Chairman, the general public out there have already heard about this and they are inquiring of us about details. How are the people who might want to take part in this able to find out this information? It is not an unlimited amount of money. It is a good chunk of money, but not money that could be spread thin and wide and forever. Could the Minister indicate as to what he can tell the NGOs or parties and people who might be interested in taking part in this and what they should be doing to get involved in that? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the funding has been broken down into the different regions and the number of delegates from those communities. For example, Deh Cho, Fort Simpson, four delegates from the 13 communities and GNWT staff. Norman Wells, again four delegates from the 11 communities and staff as well as the Beaufort-Delta. It has been developed with a budget around how many people they are going to get from the different communities and the staff there and the cost for travel, accommodation and facilitator fees. It has been broken down for that. For actual information, they expect to have about 124 delegates for communications and we could probably go to the Minister of Health and Social Services for that specific information. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have been in communication with the communities, the community leadership, working with them to pick delegates and to arrange all the logistics, as Minister Roland has covered off for the most part. We have facilitators in place for the three conferences and we have been working fast and hard to make sure that we get this done right. We have been using basically the same template as was used by Municipal and Community Affairs when they had a workshop in Inuvik a number of months ago to try to achieve the same positive results. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Could I ask the Minister who is in charge of picking delegates in Yellowknife? Where would the NGOs or persons who might want to participate in this program or in this workshop from Yellowknife go in Yellowknife to find out whether they could be picked as delegates or not?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure to attend one of the workshops in Norman Wells, Inuvik or Simpson. Is that what the Member is asking?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Member is asking in particular to Yellowknife delegates. Thank you. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Yes, sorry, Mr. Chairman, I should clarify. I am embarrassed to admit this, but I think it finally clued in that we might not have a workshop in Yellowknife. Is that true? If that is the case, how would Yellowknife people put their input into this process? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the process for establishing this money and for identifying the workshops and the delegates within those workshops, I don't have. The Deh Cho communities -- 13 of them -- I don't have a list of the communities on hand. Maybe the Minister of Health and Social Services has that. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this immediate focus was on the communities along the pipeline route and through the impacted regions and those communities. Yellowknife was not seen as being one of the impacted communities on the pipeline route on the immediate first go-round. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that is pretty clear here, but I think there are, and I am wondering if the Minister or the government has any plans to invite those groups who might be based in Yellowknife but share an NWT focus, whether they be chambers of commerce or numerous NGOs who might have particular work or objectives that although they are based here, they are not really Yellowknife groups but are territorial-wide based who might have something useful who could gain from these workshops or to be able to contribute to these workshops. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the first three scheduled workshops are going to be rolled out relatively quickly. As we complete that process and review the results and we look to the future in terms of next steps, we will be considering looking further afield at other possible impacted areas on a secondary or tertiary level that may require some similar attention. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: That is it for now on this issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next on the list I have Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of items that I wanted to cover and I will start with just wanting to make a few comments on the new money that is there for initiatives to prepare for the Mackenzie gas project. I have said it many times before, I think we are, as a government, more reactive to things that happen, rather than proactive. Here we are again requesting some jobs, some positions when this type of work and the pipeline office is still not staffed up to the level that it is supposed to be staffed up to.

This is work that should have been done years ago. We should have been planning for this years ago. To me, it looks like poor, poor planning. Now we are coming back hiring four new positions in MACA, another position in Health and Social Services. I'm still not convinced, and haven't been convinced from day one, that this government has a coordinated approach to dealing with pipeline related issues.

The pipeline office was supposed to help, but we are still going off in separate directions, as I see it, department by department. I know that there are working groups with deputy ministers and whatnot, but I still do not see the coordination that I think has to be there.

Mr. Chairman, the first question I have for the Minister is I am wondering about the \$440,000 for three community benefits agreements specialists and a community benefits coordinator. Are those jobs based on a one-year term, or are these indeterminate positions with the GNWT? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to get that information to see if in fact they are for a term position. I think we had better go to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I don't have the detail in my briefing book.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the positions identified were the four different positions under MACA for a two-year term.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they're for a two-year term, I don't know how you hire four people for \$440,000. If you look at the Department of Health and Social Services at \$110,000, which I know is a two-year term, but we know with certainty that we're going to need \$550,000 more if they're all two-year terms. So why would we just come back and piecemeal this? Why don't you call it what it is and that is an investment of \$1 million on new staff, instead of coming back next year? I don't know how we're going to deal with the \$550,000 that's going to have to come back next year for these employees. I don't again see the coordination here. It seems to be coming at the last minute. Although it's much needed and I'll be the first to admit that it's needed, I think there has to be some more coordination and proper planning in that regard.

I know some of my colleagues brought this up earlier during question period, but how is it -- and I'd like the

Minister to explain this to me -- there's \$2.4 million in the budget for 2004-05 for the Territorial Treatment Centre here in Yellowknife. A whole year, a fiscal year lapses, that money doesn't get spent and here we are in this supplementary looking like we're going to carry over some money that was initially for the Territorial Treatment Centre and also we're going to take that \$2.4 million that was initially earmarked for the Territorial Treatment Centre in 2004-05 and all of a sudden it appears in 2006-07 for the Dene K'onia facility in Hay River. I really am having a great deal of difficulty in trying to understand how a government, and we're part of this government... We approved the budget in 2004-05 for a certain capital expenditure. A whole year lapses, we're not informed, we're not consulted on those capital dollars that are now going in to renovate Dene K'onia.

Mr. Chairman, somebody owes us, on this side of the House, an explanation as to why that happens and how it can happen. To me it's like hocus-pocus. It's there one day, it's not the next, and we're not informed about it. The communication has to be there. We have to know what's going on. It's big dollars. It's not like it's \$100,000 in capital money. It's \$2.4 million going into a program that we know works here in Yellowknife and now it's not there. I think the Minister or his staff owes us an explanation on how that happens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see we're getting into the detail of the document and I'll gladly go to that. The general issue of planning and of allocation of dollars, as I stated in question period earlier, was the fact that as dollars are approved or the appropriation is approved for the government to spend money in those areas, if that doesn't proceed and we want to keep the money on the books, we have to come back to this Assembly and ask for approval to carry it over, which this document has a lot of. In this particular case the money is coming back for approval. Again, for the record, the plan is for 18 months from now, for almost two years from now. So it is going to go back into the business plan for future years. For this portion, the department is asking for \$505,000, I believe, to begin that plan and is coming to this House for approval.

I don't know how much more the Members want. We can pull out other projects to show that they've been on the books and communities have expectations that those dollars would end up being approved and when the final document comes forward to the House, they're no longer in the books because of changing priorities within departments. This one happens to be mid-stream in the sense that we've got the budget and some changes have been going forward.

I have been informed that as this project came up in substantiation through business planning, that it was always stated that the department would be looking at other options available to it, if options did come available to where the location or facility would be. So it's not absolutely new. There has been discussion. Somba K'e was one of the things that I was informed about as maybe an alternate facility for the Territorial Treatment Centre. So it is something that has been highlighted and passed on and is what I've been informed about. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The interesting thing is it's one thing that you had the \$2.4 million in the budget and, like I said, it disappeared for an entire fiscal year. If you're going to reprofile that money, wouldn't it make sense to put it in the business plan for last year? If you're going to reprofile the money, it never happened that way, Mr. Chairman. Committee never knew about it, Regular Members never knew about it until this week or last week. It's just the rollout of it. Maybe we can learn something from this on the communication side of things. If you're going to move substantial amounts of capital dollars, let us know. Tell us about it. Certainly some people are going to have some questions about that. That's why we're asking these questions today.

I have some other questions that I wanted to ask, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll give Mr. Braden a chance to ask some questions on, I'm pretty sure, the same topic. Then I'll come back to the other two issues that I wanted to address. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I understand that Mr. Ramsay might have further questions later on. At this time I'd like to recognize Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Respecting committee's normal process here of saving detailed or specific questions to that item on the page, I will not be talking specifically to the Territorial Treatment Centre project, but it sets the context for the questions that I have and that is related to what Mr. Ramsay was speaking about and questions earlier today in the House.

We have protocols that we have worked hard to develop in this House and in this consensus approach that we try to take here. As plans are formulated, developed and eventually approved in this Assembly and anticipated and expected in our communities, when things for whatever reason -- and usually there is a good reason -- are delayed or changed, our expectation and our protocols and our conventions have been that the departments and Ministers will come back to those MLAs in those communities and give at least a status report or some indication of what's going on.

In this case here, we had an approval for a \$2.4 million expenditure on a building here in Yellowknife. It didn't happen. Months went by before we learned about it and here we are today. The question I'd like to pose is on the protocol and convention that we have come to expect here. I wanted to ask the Minister what is Cabinet's guideline for when Members, when MLAs, are to be advised that a project is not going to proceed as planned? What are the triggers that Cabinet uses to say, oh, okay, we'd better go and tell somebody?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when departments have changes to projects there are provisions within the Financial Administration Manual that lay out what need to be done and we would use that as the tool in informing Members that would be affected by changes to projects. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For our discussion this afternoon, I don't have that manual at hand. Maybe I can sort of narrow this down a little bit. Are there elements of timing, like when a department knows that something is going to be off schedule by so many months or perhaps it will have to be deferred to the next year, maybe it's been cancelled, is there a time frame that says this one we had better raise a flag and send a message out there? For instance, is there a dollar amount that says this program is off by a certain percentage or dollar amount and that is the trigger? Could the Minister at least give us a sense of those two things? What's the timing trigger and what's the dollar trigger that signals that Members should be told?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as projects are established and begin to move forward, if there are changes to those projects, Ministers of the appropriate departments would notify Members in writing of the proposed changes, whether a project value would increase or decrease. Normally, though, if a project is not proceeded with but is still on the books with no changes to it but for one reason or another it hasn't proceeded, no notification comes forward until the formal notification as we are here through our capital carryover process. Then all the projects that did not proceed or were not completed in the time frame are requested in this manner here. So that process is being used.

Again, as stated earlier, unless it's a special warrant, the not previously authorized would be we're requesting authority from this Assembly to proceed with the changes. Beyond that, again, if a project is cancelled there would be notification. If a project is increased there would be notification, or decreased. But for actual projects that did not get off the ground in a time period, it's probably a more informal process of talking to Members or Members coming down to different Ministers and discussing what may have happened. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Okay. So \$2.4 million being shifted from an approved project for Yellowknife to a different community is within Cabinet's tolerance of saying we don't have to bother telling anybody. Is that true? Have I got that right?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to try to make this a little more clear, we are bringing this before this Assembly for approval. This money needs to be approved if it's going to proceed in that manner or, if it doesn't get approved, then the department has to go back and identify where it would come up with those costs if it was going to proceed with that project. The money is still identified in the books still under the Territorial Treatment Centre, but the location will, if this goes to plan that has been discussed and approved at the first level and now needs approval by the Assembly, if it's accepted it will be in another location. It

will still be a Territorial Treatment Centre, but the approval process needs to happen at this point. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: You know, okay, I'm really trying to keep an open mind and an open pair of ears on this, but, Mr. Chairman, the department asked for permission to spend \$2.4 million in Yellowknife. It could have well been any other project, any other community. Then along came, for whatever reason, a change in plan, but nothing was said. We approved that project to happen in Yellowknife. Now they're coming back without any prior information or notice or advisories to us at all and saying we want to re-approve the same project -- in fact, for more money, almost 50 percent more money -- in a different community. I don't want to get into the specifics of this yet, Mr. Chairman, because we will later on, but the process, the protocol, the conventions that we need to continue operating in a consensus style of government are being disabused.

AN HON. MEMBER: Abused.

MR. BRADEN: Abused, disabused. We're being badly let down in this case. That is the point I want to make. I want to ask the Minister, does he accept that the normal conventions and the rules that we understand we're operating under here were not followed in this case? Does the Minister accept that the rules were not followed in this case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Can I just remind Members that we should refer to the general comments or the Minister's statement? Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess the Members may want to debate the merit of moving the project, but to try to call into question the process that's established in saying we dislike the fact that the project or the idea of the project, the money being moved is in question. Let's have the debate around the merit, the value of moving the project from one community to another. The process is identified. If the plan goes ahead, the dollars would be coming back to the Assembly, to the committees in the 2006-07 business plan to have that project established. What they're seeking at this point is the planning dollars to see if they can start it this year. If that is not approved, then it would be up to the department to find out if in fact they do have the money to proceed or if there's the will to proceed at that point. The process is established, we're coming forward, the project has been laid out. Maybe the Minister has missed a meeting with the committee on clearly identifying the establishment. But if you look at the dollars that were approved, this goes right back to 2002-03 main estimates capital acquisition plan. Children's Territorial Treatment Centre, the total amount identified at that point was \$2.7 million, which was carried over to 2003-04 and the total amount at that point for expenditures on Territorial Treatment Centre were targeted at \$3.3 million, and \$907,000 of those dollars were expended or were planned and carried over into 2004-05, and further identified in 2004-05 was \$2.4 million.

So this project was laid out at that point. When the substantiation for the capital carryover was made and this being for the 2003-04 year carryovers to 2004-05, it was identified that an alternate location was being looked at. That was identified to FMBS that the carryover was being

carried over, but they were beginning to look at an alternate location. Again, it is my understanding that committees were informed that as this money kept being identified and carried over, that the department was looking at other possible solutions to what was initially in place, about replacing the existing facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. May I just remind the Members again, we are on general comments. I would ask that Members hold their detail questions until we get to the appropriate page in the detail booklet. Thank you for your cooperation. Are there any further general comments? Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask some questions, not on a specific item, although obviously reference will be made to it. On this issue of the government coming back to us to approve something that has been approved before in principle, I think that as a budgeting process that has to be reviewed.

Mr. Chairman, we have a rule in this House where normally we are not allowed to revisit things that have been decided on. We are not allowed to revisit a new motion unless it is to be rescinded. So why is it possible, why is that part of the process that a capital project as big as over \$2 million, the government comes here, as I stated earlier, and they fight tooth and nail for every cent? It is almost impossible for us to move anything unless we delete something. They convince us that they have to do this. Every capital project is essential, it's needed, it makes sense, it has gone through the FMB process and we vote on it. So now we are told that the money that was approved because they needed it was just held back.

Mr. Chair, I can understand how for many projects the government needs to have flexibility. I can see if you want to build a school, because the materials couldn't get there, you couldn't get the barge. Some disastrous things happen. If that happens so that they have to lapse capital money, they couldn't build a road or whatever, they should come back to us and tell us why they couldn't spend that money. They shouldn't be allowed to just lapse it and come back and want us to re-approve the money that's already been approved, revisit the expenditure decision because of a political reason. That is the worst use of the power of this Assembly and the political capital we have. The Minister has indicated already that we should argue on the merit of the project, not on the process. I think we should argue about the opposite. I think the Minister, who is normally very sensible and has common sense and is rational about these things, if he could just take himself away from his support for this project I think he could see the wider view that there is something wrong with this process.

It wouldn't make any sense, Mr. Chair, for us to approve money to renovate a hospital in Inuvik and then they lapse the money and then come back for \$2.6 million for us to redo what we have already done. When you are thinking about this project here, the centre in Yellowknife is only six years older than Hay River. I mean there is no merit on why this should be moved other than...and there's no problem with fixing Yellowknife any more than Hay River. They have been working on that thing for years, but for political reasons they put the money aside, they didn't spend it and they are saying well we're just asking you to redo your decisions. I don't understand why we have to do that. We don't have to do that for any other situation.

So not going into the specifics of the project, this is something that I've learned that just finally clicked for me in the last two days, that we as a Legislature can sit here and approve all of this money and yet we can have no confidence that that will be carried through. In fact, the government doesn't even have any reason. It can be for political reasons that they could move it. They don't have to tell us why they cannot renovate this building in Yellowknife. Maybe if they found that it would cost them \$10 million to renovate it and we couldn't do it and they want to come back to us to re-approve it, there's nothing like that. They are asking us to approve the money that we had already approved to renovate a building that was constructed in 1961 and move it to a building that was constructed in 1957 in Hay River for exactly the same use and at exactly the same cost; incidentally for a lot more money than what it would cost to build a new building, which is another question altogether. It would cost less money for the government to build a new building in Yellowknife for this treatment centre, or Hay River, than the money suggested.

Another thing is this money was approved for \$3.3 million. The cost estimate of the renovation was \$3.3 million in 1997 and all of a sudden we are talking about \$2.4 million which is a lot less. I think if the Minister could just take himself out of the thought that he supports this project because he has to or whatever reason, I think if he really looked at it I think he would have to agree that this doesn't make sense. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think we just have to look back a couple of years at an incident that is very similar in the nature of what happened and it did, as well, cause an uproar in a number of other communities. When the young offenders' facilities were moved from their existing location, they were identified in the capital plan and were to be possibly rebuilt in Hay River. At that point a decision was made by the department to proceed on a different lateral and saw the facilities being split and moved to other locations. The young offenders ended up being part of the North Slave Correctional Centre as we have it now and the female section went up to Inuvik. So there's an example of even a larger scale project that was established in the books and the facility was existing in the community of Hay River at the time, but the department had changed because of other factors and came back. Ultimately, it has to get approved by the Assembly. So there's an example of some of the changes that occur in the capital plan process.

Once a project has been identified for change or a change has been made at the Cabinet/FMB table, then we will notify the Members. The proposal now has been adopted at the first level, but the money hasn't changed. The money is still in the books, identified as it was and that is why you find it here in the supplementary appropriation that lays out the plan for this year and future years if accepted by the Assembly. So there are examples of how projects do change from one community to another with the departments that are in charge of them having changed their plan and presenting it to Cabinet and then to the Assembly. So there is an example of how that can happen.

If you're the Member representing that community, it's not a very good thing to find that out and know that it was on the books and you can tell people in your community for a number of years that this project is coming and then the year when it's about to come it doesn't happen. Things don't turn out very well and I think most Members at one point or another probably felt a bit of that, whether it's a delay in the capital program in dust control because there's not enough money or it's delayed for another year. There are many examples of that, but notification ultimately comes back to this House for approval if we're going to move dollars from one project to another project, and that's what we're doing here. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I was not here I don't believe when that happened with the young offenders' centre and if there was an uproar then, and there should be an uproar now, two wrongs don't make it right. It was wrong then, it's wrong now and I don't think that justifies the Minister's move on this thing.

My point is we can't do that. It's not a proper expenditure in decision-making of government money. The Minister stated some of the reasons why the young offenders' centre had to be moved here. There are, so far, no reasons given whatsoever why it is better to use the Hay River centre over Yellowknife's centre. In fact, the documents that Minister Miltenberger gave us yesterday state in a briefing note how there are serious concerns about availability of a program. Now two buildings are almost as old as each other. They are almost both 40 years old. There is no reason for this, other than a political move and that cannot be condoned because that can happen to anyone in this Assembly, and I don't think that's a fair thing. I don't think the people out there want us to make decisions about their tax dollars and their capital budget in this way. I think the Minister is probably already aware that there is in the Financial Administration Manual a rule on the budget adjustments and transfers, and it states very specifically there that a department is not allowed to change capital projects that are over \$100,000 or 20 percent of the total budget without telling the MLAs or standing committees, and this was not done.

I'm not even talking about just the change here on June 1st, which is three months after we approved our budget. I'm talking about if they were going to not spend \$2.1 million, they had an entire year. It was not until November that they decided that they were not going to spend that money in Yellowknife. That is nine months after we approved that budget. There was no indication whatsoever to any of the Members of Yellowknife, the community affected or MLAs affected or their committee. So what remedy is there for the Minister? I think the Minister owes us an apology to start with for having violated the Financial Administration Manual and he should at least accept that there is something wrong with this process. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess we're just going to have to agree to disagree. I don't think there's anything that I can state that would be satisfactory to the Member about the moves that have occurred here. The rules have been followed.

The rule that she uses and has quoted there is one where we've made a decision to transfer, and the decision has been made and then you notify the Members of that change. What we're doing here is the decision has been made to accept the proposal, which kicks this into gear to come back to this House to say we need your approval for this change. So the money hasn't been moved at this point, but it is coming back to this House for approval to be moved.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know if I can ever be able to justify to the satisfaction of the Member the move that's being requested here. We just have to agree to disagree, I suppose. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: On this line of questioning, Mr. Chair, I am looking at part of the Financial Administration Act I believe under FMBS's authority here regarding budget adjustments and transfers. This is a guideline or a set of rules that was created in November 2003, not that long ago. Copies are being produced and will be circulated shortly, Mr. Chair.

Ms. Lee pointed out a requirement on item 5.4 d) that says, "When a department makes any adjustment to a capital project that significantly affects the scope...\$100,000 or 20 percent...the responsible Minister will advise the appropriate MLA or Standing Committee."

Mr. Chair, I'm going to also refer to an earlier section on that under these guidelines, section 5.4, Consultation guidelines for Infrastructure Project Budget Adjustments. "The guidelines represent recommendations with regards to consultation for infrastructure investment budget adjustments. However, departments are expected to exercise sound judgment" -- sound judgment, Mr. Chairman -- "in reporting and consulting on any adjustments, including those that are below the recommended thresholds in the guidelines noted below, especially if the adjustment is of significance to a community." These are FMBS's own rules. Why weren't they followed in this instance? Mr. Chairman, from this point on we're going to go into the specifics of this particular item, which appears later in the budget. I am prepared to go to detail now, but the Minister is going to have to have a pretty good explanation for the need to let go of what I believe is absolutely straightforward, a very clear rule in his own policy manual. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the rules are as he's read them and as I've worked with where transfer has occurred and adjustment has happened. What is happening at this point now is we're requesting that transfer to happen and that adjustment to be made. The transfer has not happened at this point, adjustment has not happened at this point, the money is still identified under the Territorial Treatment Centre for Yellowknife, but changes to the plan are being brought forward now for the money to be changed to a different project. It's the Territorial Treatment Centre, but in a different community. So it is brought back for adjustment to that plan. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Okay, I'll allow committee to get your grey binders out. We're under tab one. We're going to go over Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 2005-2006, and we're going to go please to the detail booklet page 5. On page 5, Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, negative \$159,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, negative \$159,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 6, Executive, operations expenditures, executive offices, executive offices not previously authorized, negative \$362,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Beaufort-Delta regional office, \$350,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total executive offices, negative \$12,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 7, Executive continued, operations expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, directorate, not previously authorized, \$903,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Corporate human resources services, \$7.061 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Client services, not previously authorized, \$3.113 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Employee relations, not previously authorized, \$5.093 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total Financial Management Board Secretariat, \$16.170 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Page 8, Executive continued, operations expenditures, Aboriginal Affairs, Aboriginal Affairs, not previously authorized, \$161,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total Aboriginal Affairs, \$161,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, \$16.319 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 9, Finance, operations expenditures, not previously authorized, directorate, negative \$64,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, negative \$64,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 10, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, directorate, special warrants, not previously authorized, negative \$321,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Community operations, special warrants, \$1.295 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Not previously authorized, \$3.707 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Lands administration, not previously authorized, \$750,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs continued, operations expenditures, regional operations, special warrants, not previously authorized, \$712,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Sport recreation and youth, not previously authorized, \$249,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, \$2.007 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): That's special warrants, just for the record. Not previously authorized, total department, \$4.385 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 12, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$768,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Asset management, special warrants, \$868,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Not previously authorized, \$379,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, special warrants, \$868,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Not previously authorized, negative \$389,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 13, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$488,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Program delivery support, not previously authorized, negative \$5.927 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$4.876 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 14, Health and Social Services continued, operations expenditures, supplementary health programs, not previously authorized, negative \$303,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, negative \$866,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 15, Justice, operations expenditures, services to government, not previously authorized, negative \$1.443 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Law enforcement, not previously authorized, \$234,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, negative \$1.209 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 16, NWT Housing Corporation, operations expenditures, NWT Housing Corporation, not previously authorized, negative \$561,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, negative \$561,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 17, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, directorate and administration, not previously authorized, \$115,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Education and culture, special warrants, \$1.491 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$688,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 18, Education, Culture and Employment continued, operations expenditures, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, negative \$584,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Income security, not previously authorized, negative \$73,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, special warrants, \$1.491 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, \$146,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 19, Transportation, operations expenditures, corporate services, not previously authorized, negative \$870,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Highways, not previously authorized, negative \$63,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, negative \$933,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 20, Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, negative \$628,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Economic development, not previously authorized, \$139,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$489,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 21, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, negative \$137,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Environment, not previously authorized, \$933,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, \$796,000. I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The environment Beverage Container Recovery Program; I want to ask the Minister if somehow...I understand there is going to be programs in the Northwest Territories. Is there anything going to be done in our regions? Just for clarification.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is a plan to establish beverage recycling depots in the regional centres or regional locations. The setup process centres are in Yellowknife, Hay River, Inuvik; and depots in six communities: Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, Rae and Inuvik. That is the plan and I believe they are due to roll it out soon. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any plans to have any communities in our region to put a program in there? As I spoke to it earlier this week about the amount of garbage that is being tossed around in the Sahtu, are there any programs that are going into our community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intent is to have a program or a process in every community. When this was rolled out, it was discussed that the potential was initially to get the depots up and running and have the smaller communities look at ways that they may be able to stockpile or keep the recycling material until they could either get it into the other communities' depots by barge or by ice roads. That was discussed. This is the initial plan to get it up and running and they are hoping that in the future that they will be able to establish them in almost every community. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that is the part that I am not quite comfortable with in terms of the initiated program and hoping that the other communities will get a program or some type of program that would support the containers. I haven't see anything or heard anything that small communities like Deline or Fort Good Hope or Tulita or Colville Lake or even Norman Wells can see some progress. There is nothing in the

books. There is nothing by this government to say that we will have a program for those communities, that we will support the larger communities to have these containers that they can ship it barge.

Right now there is nothing from this government. The only thing on here is that we are planning to have something like that in the future, and God knows what will happen in the future here. Is there anything concrete enough to tell our communities that we are putting some plans in place by September of this year? Everybody gather their garbage and bring it down to the NTCL barge because they are going to ship it to Inuvik because that is where the containers are going to be or wherever. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the information that we have is that there are discussions happening in a number of these communities to see if in fact they can be established, but there are no concrete plans in place at this point beyond those that have been identified. Even with the ones that have been identified, this has been delayed from its initial implementation date due to some difficulties with getting it up and going. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Yakeleya? No. I have Ms. Lee next.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been in the works for many, many years. It is going across two assemblies. The laws on these were approved in the last Assembly. It was started at the beginning of that Assembly almost, and it is quite frustrating actually to see that this is still not off the ground. I would like to know from the Minister what is the problem. Should we have put more resources there? It seems like the negotiations for depots have been going on forever. Regulations have been written forever, like for two or three years. It was something that was concrete and seemed to me, at the time, relatively straightforward. Could the Minister give up information on why this is taking so long? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intention is now to have the regulations approved by later on this month, I understand, targeting an implementation date of November 1, 2005. The Minister may have further detail to that. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister is giving the information that I was going to, that the regulations are set to be approved. They haven't been approved prior to now and then November 1st is our implementation date. We are working hard with some of the communities trying to finalize the various proposals and we are more than willing to entertain any proposal from any community when it comes to this particular initiative. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should just state here that this might be an example where it makes sense that, for whatever reason, the government couldn't spend the \$933,000 that was allocated for the recovery program and they are asking us to re-approve this and there are good reasons for that, as opposed to the other thing that we are occupied with at this Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, I want to ask for more details about \$550,000 allocated for materials and supplies. I wonder if the government is going to buy the equipment necessary for this program. What is that about?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Chairman, I didn't quite get the full question on that one. Was it what the money would be used for? Capital equipment to set up the depots and regional processing centres is what it's identified for. Was there more information the Member was requesting on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is \$550,000 stated for materials and supplies, which is a huge sum of money. It could mean anything. It could be a pen and pencil to whatever the recycling equipment may be. Perhaps that's what this is about. I would like to know more details about what the money is going to be spent on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister will provide that information, but I understand, more from my previous experience in setting up these depots, it would be bailers, wrappers, containers and so on. We will have that information provided to the Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. He wasn't referring it to Minister Miltenberger that I heard. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Could any of the Ministers indicate whether it's the plan of the government to buy the equipment necessary for bailing, crushing or whatever you do for recycling products? I thought the plan was to get local groups to bid for it and if they do get it, I thought they would buy the equipment and make these projects work. Can I get that information, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason the department was asking for this money initially was to provide the start-up funds. So that is setting up the depots, the equipment that would be needed. At that point, as the recycled materials started arriving and we started sending out the materials for the rebate, then as the money flowed in it would allow them to then become self-sustaining. The goal is to be self-sustaining, but it was realized at that point that start-up costs needed to be identified and attached to this to make it a worthwhile process and to have it come into place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Could the Minister confirm whether this was supposed to be a non-profit operation? I think that is what has been the plan. We expect that the non-profit community organizations would bid for these projects and run them. Now the Minister is indicating that the government will buy this equipment. I don't know how long these contracts are. If somebody gets to do this work for two or three years, what happens to the equipment after that? If they are self-sustaining after the program gets off the ground, are they expected to pay towards the equipment and, if not, the equipment should stay as government property? What is the mechanism for running the program? I am assuming, for example, if a community group wins the contract and runs it for three years and they don't want to do it again and another group takes it over, the equipment would travel with the new group. I wonder if the government is going to be landlord of the equipment or does it go to the groups? How does that work?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a number of RFPs went out to communities, it was open to anybody to put in a proposal to run these centres or depots, the equipment. It's probably not fair to go to Minister Miltenberger at this point for this information because he's just taken that on, but Minister Bell may have some information on this that he can share with the Assembly at this point.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the approach, as the Minister of Finance has indicated, was to make the capital investment required to get the facilities up and running. The government would make that capital investment and it would be recouped through fees that would be collected. So I am not sure of the length of time in terms of the RFPs and how long contracts would be awarded for. The idea is to be able to operate on a break-even basis. We don't want to subsidize this on a go-forward basis. So fees would pay for the operation and fees would also be used to recoup our initial capital investment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Bell. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Are we going to recoup the fees and payments to get them started, or is that like operating core funding? I am talking about the \$328,000 under fees and payments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you. Just to be clear, the fees that are applied to the containers, once the recycling takes place, only some of that is recouped by the consumer. The rest of it goes to pay for the operation of the program. So there is a deposit and some of it is refundable and some of it is not. The amount that's not, goes to pay for the program, both for operations and also to recoup the initial capital investment made by government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Bell. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: I don't think I got confirmation as to whether this is supposed to be non-profit. I think Minister Roland indicated that it's supposed to be self-sustaining. I don't know what that means. I don't know if there are too many groups out there without making any money. I am assuming somebody will make some money. They should make some money on this. I am being told that they will be required to pay some of these fees back. We don't want to see a situation where they would be overburdened by having to make these payments. I guess at this point we don't have any idea how it's going to work once it finally gets off the ground. I wonder if Minister Bell could add more into this about how it is envisioned that this money gets used to get these projects off the ground in terms of the financial viability and potential for the groups that might be interested in doing this work. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason we initially went back to Minister Bell is when RWED was one department, he was involved with this. Now that's falling into Minister Miltenberger's side of the equation. The fees will address cost to collect, process, transport containers, and to administer the program. An unredeemed deposit, when everybody goes forward and buys their pop or their juice packs and pays their deposit, if they don't return them back to the depot, that money that is unredeemed as they say, will go towards the administration costs of the program and we'll cover the other costs that are there.

All the revenue and expenses for the program will be managed through a special purpose fund known as the environment fund and the program will pay for itself through the surcharge of each container sold in the NWT, except for the start-up funding. That's some of the start-up funding that we have identified in earlier discussions. It will not be dependent on funding from the GNWT. So it is meant to be a self-sustaining program. A repayment of start-up funding is expected to occur, as Minister Bell stated, over a five-year period from implementation of this. This was the plan from the start of it to where we are now. Unfortunately, trying to get the regulations in place and how it would work in communities is taking longer than was anticipated initially.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are back on page 21, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, negative \$137,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Environment, not previously authorized, \$933,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, \$796,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 22, Executive, capital investment expenditures, not previously authorized, government accounting, \$12,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total for Financial Management Board Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$12,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, \$12,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 23, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital investment expenditures, community operations, not previously authorized, negative \$2.322 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Lands administration, not previously authorized, \$141,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Regional operations, special warrants, \$716,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Not previously authorized, regional operations, \$8.392 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 24, Municipal and Community Affairs continued, capital investment expenditures, regional operations continued, total department, special warrants, \$716,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, \$6.211 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 25, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, special warrants, \$699,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Not previously authorized, \$1.023 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Information and communication technology, not previously authorized, \$35,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$2.511 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 26, Public Works and Services continued, capital investment expenditures, petroleum products continued, total department, special warrants, \$699,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, \$3.569 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Page 27, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health services programs, special warrants, \$577,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$3.260 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): I have on the list Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the \$505,000 that makes up part of the \$3.283 million for the renovations to Dene K'onia, I would like to ask the Minister if he has a copy of the Financial Administration Manual, directive 302 with him today. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not with me in the House right now.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll make a copy available for the Minister, if that's possible, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Voytilla can get a copy as well.

I wonder what happens -- and this is the first time I have been faced with this -- when a department and a Minister go outside of the guidelines set out in an FAM directive, specifically directive 302, which states under 5.4 quite explicitly that, "...departments are expected to exercise sound judgement in reporting and consulting on any adjustments...especially if the adjustment is of significance to a community." Part c) of that says "No new capital projects, over \$250,000, are to be established until the responsible Minister has consulted in writing with the affected Member(s) of the Legislative Assembly and appropriate Standing Committee."

Also, Mr. Chairman, under part d) it states, "When a department makes any adjustment to a capital project that significantly affects the scope (e.g., \$100,000 or 20 percent of the project budget, whichever is greater)...the responsible Minister will" -- and that's the big word here -- "advise the appropriate MLA and Standing Committee."

Mr. Chairman, it's obvious that this did not happen. I wonder if the Minister can tell us today what happens when a Minister circumvents the FAM directive as set out in FAM directive 302. What is the fallout when that

happens because I haven't seen it happen before? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the Member is looking at the area of where we have made a decision and transfers are occurring. In a sense, the change in scope is what we are coming forward now with. The dollars are still identified for the project under the existing terms, as was approved by this Assembly. It is now coming to this Assembly for the changes that are being requested.

As I stated earlier, when this issue, as I laid out earlier on record, the capital acquisition plan from 2002-03, 2003-04 to 2004-05, the substantiation given for carryovers and, at that time, being identified that the department was looking at possible alternate options that were available to the department. I haven't myself in my tenure as Finance Minister, come across a situation where we have had to call this into question and deal with a Minister that has not followed the guidelines. So I can't tell you from my tenure as Finance Minister what needs to be done. Obviously if an infraction has occurred, they would take it to FMB and have a discussion there and discuss what level or degree of what may have happened and discuss the appropriate action that would have to occur. From past experiences, I would have to go to the author of all of this, I believe, Mr. Voytilla. For the tenure I have had as Finance Minister, we have not come across this or called a Minister on not following the rules that are in front of us. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I tend to see things really black and white. When I read section 5.4 d) on FAM directive 302, I read timing of the project. "...the responsible Minister will advise the appropriate MLA and Standing Committee." Clearly, Mr. Chairman, this did not happen. It's obvious to me and obvious to some of my colleagues here today that this did not occur, absolutely, unequivocally did not happen. I think somebody owes us an explanation as to why this did not happen. It's set out in here, it should have happened and it didn't happen. The project disappeared from the capital budget for an entire fiscal year and nobody let the MLA in the riding know that that was happening. Nobody informed the Standing Committee on Social Programs that this was happening and somebody owes us an explanation, Mr. Chairman, and I would like the Minister to give us that explanation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. At this time, I would caution Members not to refer to documents that are not before the House. Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, the money did not disappear. The authority to spend the money was given and the money was not spent. The authority remains on that project and the substantiation of that project, and was identified in the infrastructure acquisition plan in the 2004-05 one under CAP 14. It was identified, it's there, it hasn't changed, it has not disappeared and remains. I guess that's where the grey area that some have referred to may be setting up, because the money is still there under that

project. It has not been taken away, it has not been removed, it didn't lapse.

Every year from 2002-03 or 2003-04 it has been asked and has received approval to be carried over and carried over again. So this project has been carried over for two years, and now, at this point, the Minister has come forward and requested a change to the project. But the dollars are still identified under that project.

Until this House approves otherwise, the dollars will remain under that project. If the Minister then is not going to proceed with that work, then he would have to inform the committees and Members why he's not proceeding with that project. But until we get authority for the change, it has not changed.

The direction at first phase has been brought forward to Cabinet and has been agreed to move in this direction, and now we have to seek the approvals. So it hasn't changed, the money hasn't disappeared, it's still there identified under children's Territorial Treatment Centre, Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I can argue all day with the Minister about what the scope of the project actually entails. Mr. Chairman, when I see a project at \$2.4 million that was going to take place in Yellowknife in the Member for Great Slave's constituency and that project moves a seven-hour drive away, a half-hour flight away south of Great Slave Lake, obviously the scope of that project has got to change, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the Minister can tell us what his definition of the scope of the project really is, and why the Member wasn't informed and the standing committee wasn't informed when it's obvious the scope of the project changed.

We're talking about apples and oranges here, Mr. Chairman. It's not the same project. It's obvious to anybody that it's not the same project. The scope absolutely, positively changed and why weren't we informed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally we agree. The scope in the project has changed and that is why we are coming back to this House for approval for that change. Up until that approval happens, the authority given to the Assembly remains with that project. The reason we're coming back now is because a request has been made and we've agreed at the first stage, but we need the authority of the Assembly to move beyond this next stage. If the Assembly does not approve of it, then the project, as the department is trying to put in place now, will not proceed until it receives approval of this Assembly.

I guess there's some difference there in the sense of when that notification should go out. But the fact is the scope is changing and that is why we're back here at the table, have come through the supplementary appropriation process, brought it to committee to inform them of this, and now into Committee of the Whole. Should we tighten up on this and have the Ministers go before committees

as they are planning to do this? I guess that's something we can have further discussion on and it may be a bit more appropriate at that point. But I'm informed that every time this was requested for carryover, that it was identified that the department was looking at alternative options that may come along. So the specific location wasn't identified until recently, which is now kicked into this process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Next I have Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that item I agree also that the proposal now to move this to another community and to use the money to renovate another building is definitely a change in scope. But I want to also point out that when the Minister gets the money from this Assembly and chooses not to spend, that definitely is a change in scope; a change in the nature of the project.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MS. LEE: We vote in this House, giving the authority to Ministers to spend the money as they requested. There was money approved to renovate this building and if the department chooses not to do that, that's a change in the scope of the work.

AN HON. MEMBER: You bet.

MS. LEE: Inaction and omission is also inaction. The Minister is getting around this rule by saying well we're coming to you now and we're saying we want to do it in another place. I don't think that is what the spirit of what this rule is.

I've always thought that myself, as a Member of this Assembly, comes here and we review our budgets, we debate our budgets, and we vote on that. I have to have comfort when I'm leaving this place that the money that I voted on will be spent the way it was voted on. The government should not be allowed to just hold off and not even have to bring to us any explanation as to why they could not spend that money. I could understand if now the Minister comes up and says we tried to renovate the Yellowknife TTC and we found that it's not worth renovating or that it would cost twice more than what it is, or whatever. If there's a construction, structural or rational reasons as to why they cannot spend this money and they had to lapse it, I could understand how then they would have to come and ask us for permission. But surely the spirit of us voting for projects here couldn't be that we're just giving them blanket authority. You know, you could come and ask us for \$2.5 million or \$5 million, whatever, to build a specific project, but we don't really care whether you build it or not. We don't care if you lapse it for the whole year. Surely that's not what we're saying.

In November, after we have approved this, you can't be saying we just found this money; this money for this building that didn't get spent. I think we'll just move it around. All we have to do is just go back and ask for the Assembly to approve the same money all over again. Surely that's not an ethical thing to do. That can't be what was meant here, and the Minister should appreciate that we have every reason to interpret this rule in that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess we could go around the clock on this. I have stated that the process, the guidelines that are here, we use when we make changes to a project. Whether the Member feels we're just using it to get around to say this is the formal process that we're now using...I've spoken to the Minister. He has indicated to me that when this project came up and why it hadn't proceeded in that year, why they needed to carry it over and re-identify it, it was identified at that point to the committee members that there were alternative options also being looked at.

Maybe we can have the Minister of Health and Social Services respond to that directly. Instead of hearing it from my mouth, we'll go right to the Minister on this one. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this issue has been on the books, as the Minister has indicated, for a number of years going back to the 14th Assembly. If records were checked, I have clear recollections of discussing this issue and the concerns about not wanting to renovate the existing building because of its age and state of disrepair, and of looking at other options starting way back with potential options of Somba K'e as an example. We did that year after year. Every time we met with committee we reviewed the mains. This year the circumstances were such that there was a decision made in March. The money has always been in the budget, we just carried it over with the clear intention of having a facility that is better suited for the need that it is designed for. There was a decision to be made and a decision made considering a number of factors: program capacity, the government's stated position on decentralization and opportunities to do that. The fact that the program capacity, while slightly better in Yellowknife, it's still clear that Hay River could easily deliver this program. So a decision was made because there was a facility or infrastructure in Hay River that was in better condition with more life expectancy to move the program. At the end of the contract, it's a contract program. With those factors in mind, that's the decision that was made. We have been trying to do this by the Members working with Cabinet so that we do this. It is an issue that has to be dealt with in the right way.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the capacity to get into the mind of the Minister, so I can't prove or disprove whether his recollection is correct or not. I am a member of committee and I do not recall that. I can only go by what I have in my mind. Even the documents we received from the Minister in our baskets, the briefing note about the potential assessment on the move was dated November 24, 2004. That would have been after our business planning process. That probably would have been when Dene K'ononia was being suggested for closure. I don't know what happened before November as to why the money was not being spent. That was not made clear to us. I don't recall talking about this during the February and March session. Certainly if the Minister comes and says it's going to be carried over, that is not the same thing as we are changing the scope of this project.

For the Minister to say that the services will be minimally or slightly changed between Hay River and Yellowknife, let's not even go there. I don't know how he can say that the presence or absence of six or seven specialists in one community versus another is just a slight change. With all due respect to all other communities in the Territories, I would like to see a day when all 33 communities in our Territories have the level of specialist services and other services we have in Yellowknife. I am not against that. The fact of the matter is, we don't have that. We have two ENT specialists, ears, nose and throat specialists that the children have to go see all the time. We have two and we are losing one. We have one psychiatrist who is leaving and we have a child psychiatrist who comes and visits here. No matter how much Ministers Miltenberger and Dent want to have a specialist here, we have not been able to do that. We have very few pediatricians. So for the Minister to say there is a slight change and even the documents that he's provided to us yesterday says in black and white that the services are not going to be anywhere near close, certainly not slight.

Once again, I cannot prove or disprove whether the Minister's recollection is right or not, but I am telling you on the basis of this rule, the Cabinet and the Minister are definitely not going with the spirit of this rule. I don't care what happened in the past, something like this was done, it was wrong then and it's wrong now. I think the Minister of Finance has to do more to give any kind of confidence to me that the work that I do here as a Member in passing the budget has any meaning, that they are not just going to lapse it, not use it or change it at the Cabinet table and come and say stamp it, approve it because you really have no choice in this matter whatsoever. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Before the Minister responds, I would like to caution all Members to choose their words carefully. Members will be called if they make allegations against another Member or impute false or hidden motives to another Member. Please keep these rules in mind as we proceed. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the services that Ms. Lee has talked about as available here in Yellowknife are territorial services. So they are of the nature that is provided to all residents of the Territories, whether other communities have to travel here to see those specialists. That is a common occurrence within the Northwest Territories. The benefit of having the largest centre is that more services are available here and other residents from across the Territories have to travel here. So it's a practice that is already done and exercised on a daily basis throughout the territory.

Again, as I have tried to lay out the history of the project and when it was established and the carryovers that have happened and the requests for money to be carried forward as the project started, over a year ago, the Department of Health and Social Services...I mentioned that \$3.3 million was identified for this project in the 2003-04 budget, I believe, and \$907,000 of that was to be used for starting some of that work on the existing facility. The department did not spend that money and came forward for a request to carry that over. We asked them to substantiate as to why they wanted to carry it forward. At that time their substantiation to us included the fact that they would be looking at an alternate location as they move forward as a possibility. So it's not like this was pulled out of the hat. The department has been looking at

other options. We are to the point now where we are seeking Assembly approval on this. I guess we just get to the point where if it's disagreed by this Assembly, the only thing to say is to vote it down on this section or delete it or something. I don't think we can give any more information to satisfy the Members that have concerns with this as to supporting it or not supporting it. I guess I say let's get on with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister's suggestion that there is some concrete action that committee can take on this and in that light, I would like to move the following motion, Mr. Chairman.

Committee Motion 1-15(4) To Delete \$505,000 From Health Services Programs Activity, Defeated

I move that \$505,000 be deleted from the activity "health services programs" under the Department of Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, not previously authorized, on page 27, for the relocation of the Territorial Treatment Centre.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I won't oblige some of my colleagues with letting this one go quite yet. This motion is proposed, from my point of view, for a number of reasons. We have had considerable dialogue here over many days, every day of this session, and I am not going to spend any more time going over ground in any detail. I am going to try to give some highlights though, Mr. Chairman.

When I first offered some remarks in a media interview for this, I indicated support for the idea as has been mentioned that was brought before committee and has been attached to the need for upgrading this facility. I expressed my support for the idea that the facility could go to Hay River. This was very much in the spirit on a territory-wide basis of seeing something that could perhaps have been done in a way that would have helped a lot of people out. It would have been a tough decision but had the potential to be a good one. I found out that I was really caught in the crossfire on that one because coming back into the House here, the Minister of Health and Social Services said to us it's a done deal. A decision has been made.

This leads up to probably one of the main reasons I feel this motion has to be put forward, Mr. Chairman. That is the protocol and convention that we have to be able to rely on in this House if we are going to be able to function as independent Members working to our best ability on behalf of our constituents. But when Ministers do not think that is significant enough to be brought forward to a Member and a standing committee when a decision is in place, not just an idea or concept, but a decision is in place, we've been let down. It's astonishing.

The debate here over the last 10 minutes or so has really been quite astonishing because we have a Minister of Finance responsible for the supp saying everything is fine, we are within our procedures. We are within the FMB

guidelines on this because we are now asking you for permission to go ahead with this change.

What have we been listening to here for the last six days, Mr. Chairman? The Minister of Health and Social Services stands up here solid as an oak saying it's a done deal. What position are we in when one Minister says forget about it, folks, it's a done deal and we are doing it? Then the Minister of Finance comes before us and says we are asking your position now. That's why this motion is before this House right now. We've got to get that squared around.

Then, Mr. Chairman, is the matter of people first. I would go to the Department of Health and Social Services own establishment policy. There are seven objectives there. Number seven says that people first should be one of the guiding principles of establishing health care facilities. Forty percent, we're advised, of the referrals to the Territorial Treatment Centre are from Yellowknife. About another third are from communities to the north of Yellowknife. Yet we are talking about relocating a facility even further to the south, further away from the vast majority of people who are referred to this facility, Mr. Chairman. How can this be people first?

As you have advised us, Mr. Chairman -- and I thank you for your counsel and for your advice here, I am going to use my words carefully -- we are at variance with policies all over the map. The last thing I want to make in reference to this, Mr. Chairman, I will go back to the policy of the FMB which sets out dollar limits of \$100,000 or 20 percent of a project, or timing a year or more delay. We have been told that this is now 18 months away from now, but we approved this money more than a year ago, yet it's okay that standing committee members and MLAs were not advised.

I have one other thing that I know has got to be put on the table here and that's jobs. When jobs are affected, what about telling MLAs when jobs are affected in their community? These may not be direct government jobs, Mr. Chairman, but they are under the direct contracting of this government. I think that qualifies us for notification. Members opposite, when they were here in other turfs, Mr. Chairman, I remember some very, very noisy debate in this Assembly. When as few as a single job was affected in a community, there was hell to pay. There are 17 jobs here, yet it's okay not to get any notice.

That is why this motion is before committee right now, Mr. Chairman. I would urge my colleagues, from whatever part of the territory they represent, to look at the message that we have to send to our colleagues opposite to give us a sense of confidence again that we are going to have some protocols, hard rules that we have confidence in. I am prepared absolutely every day when I come to work to help make some tough decisions, but I am also expecting that I am going to be able to be involved in some tough consultations to help do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief with respect to the committee motion that's before us. I have to agree with the other Members about the process by which this change has been brought about is definitely not in accordance with the directives that are clearly stated in the Financial Administration Manual.

On the flip side, I have constituents I have to answer to and who have definitely expressed their support for this initiative. That is the one reason I just can't support this motion. I don't think even something like this would have even come about if we had this much compassion about the issue when Dene K'onia was closing and there were 27 jobs that were on the line in the South Slave region. If we had kept that place operating today, which operated for way more than 10 years that this program has been operating in Yellowknife, I think the operation there is 25 years in the making and that was quite quickly shut down and moved over to the capital without too much fuss on the Yellowknife MLAs' side of the table.

With that, I don't think these 17 people are going to be totally out of pocket when it comes to finding other positions in the capital because the opportunities available here in Yellowknife are way higher and more available than they are in the other regional centres, South Slave included. Therefore, I would think a lot of these professionals would easily find other employment opportunities in the capital and even have the option of moving to Hay River where this operation is going to continue anyway. I don't think it's going to be too much of a culture shock just moving south of the lake.

I don't really like the process which was followed, but I have to follow what my constituents are telling me. Many of them have families who have operated in the old centre and will hopefully be re-employed with this new initiative. A lot of them have relatives in Fort Resolution that are directly impacted by this whole Territorial Treatment Centre initiative. I am sure their support for it is really appropriate on my side. That's why I just can't support this motion.

With the other argument of due process, I think there are definitely some questions that have to be answered on that side of the coin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In accordance with Rule 6(2), I move that we continue sitting beyond the hour of daily adjournment to continue consideration of Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): The motion to extend sitting hours is in order. It is not debateable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will extend the hours to continue debate. Thank you. Back to the motion. To the motion. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to support my colleague's Mr. Braden's motion that's before us today for a number of reasons. First of all, being the fact that I am 100 percent convinced that this happened for all the wrong reasons and none of the right reasons. When you're conducting government business, I'd like to see things conducted in an open, honest and transparent fashion. This, to me, has been outside the normal course of doing business. I don't understand why it couldn't go through the proper channels, like I mentioned. I won't rehash all of this, but it shows up in a budget in

2004-05, disappears for an entire fiscal year, is not in the business plan last year, and all of a sudden comes back.

The Minister of Health and Social Services has talked about the process taking 18 months. Why don't we send it back to the Social Programs committee and let it run its course? Put it through a business planning process or business planning cycle and see what happens. What have we got to lose by doing things the right way and the proper way they should be done? This was not done the right way.

I know I could argue for quite some time on whether or not any of these directives were broken or skirted or whatever you want to call it. In my mind, they were. I know the Minister says they weren't. I know Mr. Voytilla says they weren't. But we're arguing over what the intention of these directives are and, in my mind, coming back here and asking us for approval is just...All the information, Mr. Chairman, that we got was last night, late last night. So now we're coming back here today expected to make a decision on a supplementary that includes money for Dene K'onia and how long have we had what little information we've had, Mr. Chairman? Less than 24 hours and we're expected to make a decision, Mr. Chairman.

It should just run its course through the normal process. Just because it's Yellowknife and we're going to lose some jobs, we're going to lose a vital program to the community here in Yellowknife. It seems me just because it's Yellowknife, well, you know, some of the Members and even our own government is saying well, we'll put it in Hay River. It's just Yellowknife, they can live with it. To me that's not good enough, Mr. Chairman. We have people out here and we have a program that we have to support. It's one of the few programs that we have that actually works and helps young people. I don't understand why a decision like this couldn't follow the normal course of due process. That's all I ask for.

I agree with my colleague from Great Slave that I would be supportive of programs moving. Show us the information. Consult with us. Show us how it makes sense. Work with us. That's all we ask, Mr. Chairman. In this case we didn't get that consultation. That's the reason why I'm supporting this motion for the deletion of the \$505,000. Let it run its due course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. Next I have Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know my honourable colleagues have made strong statements for the last week or last couple weeks with regard to the transfer of the Territorial Treatment Centre to Hay River. With regard to that and with regard to this motion specifically, Mr. Chairman, I am going to have to say that I cannot support this motion. It's just that my mandate, as an elected representative from the Nahendeh riding, is to be supportive of decentralization and I will maintain that mandate and champion it at every opportunity that I can. It was really disheartening to have the 27 jobs removed from the Hay River riding and here I see an opportunity to replace them. I'm supportive of it and I think it is a good thing. That's where I stand with regard to this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The whole process of this decentralization is somewhat confusing for me because the first time I really did notice it was when I saw it in the newspaper and I'm not too sure we had the opportunity to have some discussion with our community members or in our region. What's more startling is that I found 25 percent of the referrals are from Inuvik and the Sahtu and 40 percent are from the community of Yellowknife.

This is a Territorial Treatment Centre. I support the decentralization policy this government has undertaken and that there are a lot of our youth in small communities that need this program. There's only 25 percent from two regions that are in this territorial treatment program. If anything, we should have some discussion on how to move these programs back into our regions for our communities where there's a high number of kids that need this program in our community regions. But there is a big percentage of referrals from Yellowknife here. Somewhere we're not receiving the same level of services in the smaller communities as the people in the city of Yellowknife, yet this is a Territorial Treatment Centre. Somewhere it's not making sense.

I'm somewhat dissatisfied with the process that it went through, in terms of how this has come about. I thought we were making some good headway in working with the other side in terms of keeping us involved. There are some projects that you have our comments and input in and in others it shows up like this.

Again, it's a program that's being moved to outside the capital city here and it's a territorial program, so again for me the decentralization of the government...I hope that we're going to see decentralization into our regions, not just one program. There are lots of misconceptions maybe out there or half truths or truths as to why this program is going to the Dene K'onia facility in Hay River. I don't know those reasons. Only Cabinet knows and Cabinet is moving it. For myself, I certainly would like to see this kind of program in larger centres coming to our regions and have those kinds of services for our people up in the Sahtu. At least I speak for my people that that's what they want to see. Sometimes it takes a lot of complaining, a lot of debates to get programs moved into our region. But something like this goes really fast. I don't know what's going on here, so I'm having some difficulty in terms of how this was done and this amount of money.

For me and my people, I guess they're kind of wondering how the system works. For that reason, on those points, Mr. Chairman, I need more information. I guess I read some stuff. I agree with some points the Members have made and some points I don't agree with. On that point, I'm going to abstain on this motion here because I need more time to read this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. I have Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to be supporting this motion and in my comments I really do not want to express in that this is a Yellowknife-versus-other-communities issue. I don't think that sort of debate enhances the work that we do in this Assembly, and I

hope that in all decisions I make in this House that it is not ever about one community versus another community.

I am sympathetic to those who lost their jobs in Hay River. I don't think that because Hay River people lost jobs now it's time for Yellowknife people to lose their jobs so that the Hay River people could get their jobs back. I really do not like the fact that we have to have our debate going in that direction.

I believe that if the Members in this House – and I know it's difficult in this job to pay attention to everything that's going on and read everything that comes before you, I find it hard myself, too – but if we could just take a few minutes to listen to the other Members about the arguments that are being made, I think that there is a lot to be learned. In fact, someone called me last night asking...People out there can see that this seems to be some kind of a Yellowknife-versus-other-communities debate and they can't understand why we can't move beyond that. I hope that we can do the same.

No matter where you lose your jobs, all of us are here to represent our own constituents. But we are also here for the good of the Territories. A person losing a job in one place is as bad as another. The people that are losing jobs at the Territorial Treatment Centre are not going to feel any better that because they live in a big city that it's okay.

Mr. Roland stated earlier that a lack of specialist services is something that goes on in all other communities, so it should be no big deal that these children will go to Hay River and that they'll be sent to Yellowknife on an as-needed basis. I'm telling you, that is just one of the kinds of things that people here are not listening to. I understand that we don't have specialists in all the places. I guess my point here is that it's not about jobs, it's not about Yellowknife versus whoever. Some community lost their jobs, it's time for payback. That is the worst kind of politics. I mean, it's about time that we listened to each other and see that this is about children. These are children in that centre, and I've said this many, many times and obviously Mr. Roland is not listening to that and maybe other people are not either. I'm telling you these children need services on a regular basis. It's not on an as-needed basis. They're in a very strict, intensive, 24-hour residential treatment program.

One of the services that children use is a psychiatrist service, child psychiatrist. We have one psychiatrist in the Northwest Territories who is leaving. We have somebody who comes up here from Edmonton. He comes up once a month for three days. He spends 1.5 days at this centre and the other 1.5 days he spends with other clients from across the Territories. He spends 1.5 days for eight kids in that centre. There's nothing that the Minister and the Premier have indicated that says that these children are going to get this program.

Decentralization is when you move petroleum products to Fort Simpson, when you move registration of health insurance cards to Inuvik. Those are government jobs, government programs and we speak as a government that we need to spread things around. The last time that sort of decentralization was done, I think was in the 11th Assembly. We have never had that sort of discussion here and for the Cabinet Ministers to move this money around, lapse the money, let's move it around because somebody else suffered and it's time for payback and these people

that lose these jobs in Yellowknife, they can find other jobs anyway. As if their jobs don't really matter because they live in a bigger community. I can tell you that these people are trained for these specific positions and they do not have readily available jobs to go to.

The question about how they were advised about this is another thing altogether. The reason why there are 50 percent of residents there from Yellowknife isn't because Yellowknife is favoured, it's just that there are 50 percent of people that live here and chances are there are going to be more kids who need that service.

Anyway, I guess once you're a Yellowknife Member you have to bear that burden, but I do hope that we can look at this from a program point of view and the client's point of view and not look at it as a political back and forth and something that we can do because we can. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. I have Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Decentralization for decentralization should not be considered a mandate or a policy that we should live by. I'm concerned that we're moving this because, first and foremost, we have a facility in Fort Smith already and if it was a matter of establishing a facility in Hay River to make them feel good about their potential loss and maybe move forward for that, then maybe we should be moving the one from Fort Smith there. I don't know. We talk about spreading things around equitably, well, we have one in the South Slave already. Now we're going to have two in the South Slave, none in the centre and none in the North.

The Premier the other day had said, you know, other options could have come up. I think he pointed to 10 or 20, maybe 50 other options that we could have come forward with if we needed to fill that facility. I don't know why we're in such a rush to fill that facility. We've got to fill it at any cost and right now the cost is starting with \$3.3 million and a bunch of kids. Can we ever equate that true cost? I don't think so.

I think decentralization for decentralization's sake without a business plan doesn't make any sense. I think our policy should say stuff like when we're creating a new service we should look into the communities and ask how we can establish it there in a reasonable way. That should be what our policy should say. It should say look, let's see if we can establish something wherever necessary and if not, then we'll fall back into the Yellowknife region or the Inuvik region or the Hay River region, in that type of order. But I don't know.

We have to keep in mind this is a cinderblock facility. It's a jail. We're going to be spending a lot of money to convert it to suit children. I think that alone, the stigma that we're now sending the kids from a treatment centre to a jail, I think that's a laughable situation. I don't think that's fair to them at all to give them the fresh start or the fair start that they deserve or the support. I don't want to see us sending these kids to that place. So we have to convert a building with bricks, cinder and mortar, concrete and bars, into a treatment centre. That's just plain old wrong. I don't know why people are having trouble with that.

It's not just to bolster the community. We could have found things and I'm sure if we put a little thought behind it, maybe if there was an engagement on this side of the

House we could have figured out how, if we needed to fill that facility, maybe someone could have called the AOC committee to come up with ideas of what we could put there. But no, there was no discussion on this side of the House. This was a unilateral decision made by Cabinet and it wasn't even used with the proposal of some type of consultant out there consulting the services, the people that would be affected, the families that would be affected.

I don't endorse this because a discussion paper came forward. Well, speaking of a discussion paper, I mean, I got a one-inch piece of paper there last night that came under the cloak of darkness and I have to now become an expert on this thing within a couple of hours. When it hits my table and makes a thud, I haven't had a chance to read this. Here we are, it's before us, this is a decision before Cabinet. We've been asking for a week on details of this. Oh, don't worry, the information's coming. Well, it's almost too late for us to make a decision without getting a chance to get a full briefing on what we're truly deciding on, other than the fact that we're just going to move it. Suck it up, we're going to move it and like it. Oh well, we better decentralize. Well, there's been no business plan and no talking to these families about this.

The reality of the game here we have to ask ourselves is, do we establish every service we have in Yellowknife in every community? I don't know if that's considered reasonable. I don't think we could ever get to that stage. We have to look at a critical mass to help everyone. There was no business case on this.

Is this a fair trade up? I think this is a shell game to make maybe one or two Members go away. Maybe it's to make four or five Members go away. I don't know. It seems like a shell game. I go back to the fact that there was no consultation on our side of the House. It's funny because the executive side of the House tends to play this, well, we're a consensus government when they want, but then it's almost like a government in power when we want. So some days I have difficulty. It's like they want to wear two hats. We're consensus when we want your three votes, but certainly not a consensus government when we can make a Cabinet decision without consulting. I think that speaks to the principle of why I'm against this, is of zero consultation.

The bottom line is I'll be voting in favour of this motion and I'm a little disappointed on how this came about. I think Cabinet when they vote against this or they don't even vote showing their lack of respect for us for putting this motion forward by Mr. Braden, I think maybe they should carry that home and think about that tonight that maybe consultation is an important key, we should try it on this side of the House. I know it's almost like a cliff jumper idea, but it's time that we hear some of these decisions, these big moves, these expensive moves, these paradigm shifting moves, get some air and a little bit of discussion on this side of the House.

For now, Mr. Chairman, I think I've said more than enough, probably too much, but the bottom line is I'll be voting in favour of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Thank you. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

We're on page 27, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$3.260 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 28, Health and Social Services continued, capital investment expenditures, health services programs continued, not previously authorized; I'm sorry, community health programs, not previously authorized, \$146,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, special warrants, \$577,000. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions regarding the Frame Lake Family Physicians clinic that originally was scheduled to cost \$300,000 and now it has doubled and it's looking like it's going to cost three-quarters of \$1 million, and that's just for leasehold improvements or tenant improvements in the location that they are in at Stanton Plaza, or not Stanton Plaza, I forget the name of the building, it's the Rick's Holdings building by the SAAN store here in Yellowknife. Why does it cost three-quarters of \$1 million for tenant improvements in a building when they don't even own the building and what are they getting for three-quarters of \$1 million in terms of tenant improvements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the project had increased and it expanded for that facility, which was to increase the client space from 1,500 square feet to 4,300 square feet. As well, there's a construction of a mezzanine that will increase useable floor space by approximately another 2,300 square feet for total space of 6,500 square feet and that's primarily the reason why the cost has increased. The Minister of Health and Social Services may have further detail on that. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is a plan that sees Frame Lake clinic getting upgraded to provide better service to have more exam rooms, to be able to do things clinics can do as well. We're working on a consolidation in the downtown area to integrate the clinic capacity in the downtown core that is going to see, once again, more effective use of the staff and more exam rooms and capacity to provide services that are currently provided at Stanton that should be provided in clinics. So those combined are part of the plan to shorten wait times, improve access to doctors, to allow the staff to have

enough exam rooms to in fact do the job without waiting, and to basically be able to provide a better service and shorten the wait lists. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one other question. I have some more questions regarding the medical clinics in Yellowknife, and perhaps I can ask the Minister that at another time as it is not appropriate right now. But one of the questions that does pertain to this is the fund that is coming over from I think it says it's going to be offset by \$400,000 from the Yellowknife health authority. Where are they getting that money for the renovations because, if I'm not mistaken, the renovations at Great Slave Medical House came from some federal funding that they got? Is this some money that they just have sitting around, or is it money we've given them and they are just giving it back to us? How does that work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the \$400,000 will be contributed by the health authority. It comes out of a surplus that they have in their budget, and our retention policy with surplus is that the health board gets to keep 50 percent of it and the rest gets returned to us. So out of their surplus they are going to pay for the extra portion. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The additional funding required to complete the project is something perhaps the Minister could help me understand. Was that anticipated or was it because -- I noted he had additional extra costs to the Frame Lake Family Physicians clinic in Yellowknife -- they wanted additional space, or what justifies an increase of \$400,000 to the family clinic, Mr. Chair? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the project that initially got started on was identified for the \$350,000. As the project was proceeding, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority wanted to further increase the space that they were working on and made the arrangements with the department to put more money into it. So this is the way we are recording it, is under their initiative it was to further increase the size of the project, the floor space, the offices, at their request, and they're in agreement that they would put the \$400,000 into it. But we do have to account for the total increased costs of that project and this is the way we've done it. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I guess that's where you get into the smaller regions versus Yellowknife. Lots of money is going into essentially what our regions are asking for: clinics or additional housing for physicians or staff professionals to get into a region and

you put this kind of money into here and that's what the perceptions out in the community is being viewed as. So I guess they look at the government's priorities in terms of its spending and hope it will change in the future. This is something that I'm not quite comfortable with in terms of the explanation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the department has been working on redoing how it uses its space within this city. There were a number of clinics that were private that were taken into the Department of Health and Social Services so that they could better coordinate and use the services of the doctors in a more efficient manner. That started the work that is going on and since then, as well, trying to increase the amount of space available so more patients can be seen.

Working with the department and Yellowknife Health and Social Services they came up with this arrangement and the department agreed with that process, brought it forward, we accepted what they brought forward and work is proceeding. Minister Miltenberger has more detail on the work that has been done to date. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to provide a bit more information for the Member for Sahtu. We recognize that this is a system that covers the whole territory and we have to pay attention to the whole territory as best we can.

In the Sahtu we have invested, over the last few years, several millions of dollars trying to set up a Sahtu authority with the administration and office space and office capacity for the services. We have budgeted two doctors, we are putting in a public health unit, we are going to be for the next few years subsequently following, hopefully, setting up rehabilitation teams that are going to be able to travel into the region. We have also been looking down the road for midwifery and those types of things to move out. We are under active discussion with the Member on the use of the Deline facility, so we are trying to be very aware of the need to look at all parts of the Northwest Territories.

Yellowknife has some very pressing issues. A lot of them are based on inefficiency and lack of proper space to be able to provide a service that is important to the people. This particular renovation is going to help do that, along with the other work that we are doing with the downtown clinics and subsequent as well the renovations to Stanton, which are all going to provide a better service for everybody in the end result. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Just a brief comment here. I appreciate the Minister's efforts to improve the Sahtu health authority and the plans to upgrade the health system in our region. I know that Yellowknife does need some support and I guess you are looking at the amount of dollars, the millions of dollars spent in the Sahtu and the other regions, such as Yellowknife here, and there is

no comparison. The amount of money spent here are millions, compared to the Sahtu. I hope that there is some effort to look at that in the Sahtu.

I understand that there is a budget for two doctors in the Sahtu, but they have not been able to get them because of the housing issue. It's fine to have a budget, but then there is no place for them live. So what are we doing to ensure that some of these things get some attention in laying the foundation for some of these health services in the region?

Mr. Chairman, that is more of a comment. If the Minister wants to respond, it's up to him. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is something that we obviously have to wrestle with on an annual basis when we build a budget; about the size of the government as it is, the growth that happens and where we situate our services is in much of our discussion earlier and I am sure that there will be other items as we go forward.

It is something that we have to look at and I think overall when you compare our jurisdiction to many others, we have one of the better systems available. Yes, it does need improvement and we are trying to work with communities, regions and with the federal government to help us continue to improve and make sure that residents in the smallest of our communities get adequate levels of service. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Roland. We will go back now. We are on page 28, total department, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, special warrants, \$577,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, \$3.406 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 29, Justice, capital investment expenditures, services to government, special warrants, \$74,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Legal aid services, special warrants, \$387,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Courts, \$119,000. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to make my views known again in regard to the NWT law courts building - territorial. Although the amount is not as big this time -- its \$68,000 -- but since the announcements of last year of \$40 million total, I knew that there was going to be a big backlash from my constituents and it has been well known. I just want to say that I cannot support \$68,000 for the NWT law courts building - territorial, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you for the comment, Mr. Pokiak. Courts, special warrants, \$119,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Community justice and corrections, \$424,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 30, Justice continued, capital investment expenditures, services to public, special warrants, \$26,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, special warrants, \$1.030 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 31, Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, education and culture, \$15,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$6.573 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Advanced education and careers, not previously authorized. \$1.6 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, special warrants, \$15,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, \$8.173 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 32, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, airports, special warrants, \$442,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Not previously authorized, \$2.431 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Highways, special warrants, \$61,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Highways, not previously authorized, \$3.044 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 33, Transportation continued, capital investment expenditures, ferries, special warrants, \$27,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, special warrants, \$530,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, \$5.475 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 34, Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$275,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Strategic initiatives, not previously authorized, \$43,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Economic development, special warrants, \$183,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Not previously authorized, \$149,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, special warrants, \$183,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, \$467,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 35, Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$188,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Wildlife management, special warrants, \$751,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, special warrants, \$751,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, not previously authorized, \$188,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, committee. We will now go back to the schedule which appears on page 3 of the bill. The schedule is supplementary amounts appropriated for the 2005-06 fiscal year, part 1, vote 1, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$21.342 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Part 2, vote 2, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$32.002 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total supplementary appropriation, \$53.344 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. We will now go back to Bill 1. Is committee agreed to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Let's go to Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006, 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, committee. To the preamble.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Does committee agree that consideration of Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006 is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Roland and Mr. Voytilla. Does committee agree that Bill 1 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Bill 1 is now ready for third reading. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Braden.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): The motion is in order. It's not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: I will call the House back to order. Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. RAMSAY: Madam Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006, and would like to report that Bill 1 is ready for third reading and, Madam Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Do I have a seconder for that motion? The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Minister Roland.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair...Madam Speaker, sorry about that. It's been a long day. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005, be read for the third time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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 third reading. Just before we have the orders of the day, I would like to extend well wishes to the approximately 1,000 athletes who have gathered in Hay River for the NWT Track and Field Championships who are all patiently, I am sure, waiting outside the arena for our delegation to arrive. I wish them all the best over the next few days in their endeavours in Hay River.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Madam Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Accountability and Oversight committee tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

Orders of the day for Thursday, June 2, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
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 2-15(4), Extended Adjournment of the House to October 12, 2005
17. First Reading of Bills
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 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006
22. Orders of the Day

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 2, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

