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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, October 13, 2005****Members Present**

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the House. Before we begin, I would like to remind Members that the second language in the House today is French. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 25-15(4): Energy**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, this winter all Canadians face higher energy prices, and Northwest Territories residents are no exception. The global trend towards higher energy costs, combined with the impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, have driven up the price of oil considerably.

To help residents prepare for increased energy costs, we have developed information and tips on simple and effective conservation measures homeowners and businesses can take, and we have increased funding for energy conservation assistance programs through the Arctic Energy Alliance. Conservation is the most effective way to save energy and offset the cost of increased home heating fuel, gas and power.

During the coming weeks and months, residents will hear public service announcements and will see advertising, information brochures and posters containing useful information to help them conserve energy. A number of regional workshops are also planned to offer advice and guidance to those people interested in making their homes and businesses more energy efficient.

I am inviting my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in our energy conservation campaign and to join me in leading by example by reviewing our own personal energy conservation practices in our workplace here in the Legislative Assembly and in our homes. I hope we can all work together to help our constituents make the tough choices in their personal spending to help deal with the effects of these increases on their household bills.

Higher fuel costs also impact government operations, and we are taking steps to lower our own energy consumption. I have met with all deputy ministers and reinforced the urgent need for conservation within government departments throughout the NWT. We have plans in place to ensure energy is used responsibly and to advise staff of steps they personally can take to conserve energy in the workplace.

Energy conservation has always been an important consideration in the design and construction of GNWT facilities. Many of the tried and proven conservation practices have been included in the Good Building Practices for Northern Facilities document that Public Works and Services has developed for use by staff and consultants. This guideline is being updated to capture new technologies and practices and will be more rigorously applied to GNWT projects.

In the long term, we recognize the value of securing more stable and reliable energy sources. We are working to realize our region's potential as a supplier of alternate energy such as hydroelectric power. There is enormous potential for hydro generation in the Northwest Territories, and we continue to explore this potential to its fullest.

The 15th Assembly's commitment to care and protection of the natural environment includes responsible energy consumption and conservation of resources by all governments, industries and individuals in the Northwest Territories. We intend to play our part to ensure residents are fully informed of the choices available to them. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister Roland.

Minister's Statement 26-15(4): Taxes On Fuel

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, higher fuel costs are a concern for northerners and a concern for this government. As Minister of Finance today, I would like to provide some detail about how our tax system affects fuel pricing.

- The GNWT does not set or regulate the price of gas or other fuel products. The petroleum products division supplies 15 NWT communities on a full-cost recovery basis but does not set the initial price.
- There is no GNWT tax on home heating fuel.
- There is no GNWT tax on natural gas.
- There is no GNWT tax on propane, whether it is used to heat homes or power vehicles.
- The GNWT tax on aviation fuel is less than half the national average.
- Only three Canadian jurisdictions have on-highway fuel tax rates lower than the NWT.
- Only two Canadian jurisdictions have lower diesel tax rates than the NWT.

The GNWT fuel taxes are set at a fixed rate per litre. We receive no extra revenue when fuel prices increased. The government does not intend to increase the tax on fuel, but we will not be decreasing or eliminating it either.

Reducing taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel will not help residents conserve energy; however, a reduction in taxes could result in decreased funding for much needed programs and services for our residents. The GNWT does not directly benefit from the royalties of oil and gas production and doesn't receive any financial advantage from higher oil and gas prices.

Our government believes the most effective approach to higher fuel costs is each northerner's commitment to reduce consumption. During this session, we will be introducing a supplementary appropriation bill requesting funds to be directed towards a conservation and education campaign designed to help residents cope with the increases in the fuel bills they will experience this winter. The federal government has recently announced that Natural Resources Canada will establish an office of petroleum price information, or OPPI. The OPPI will provide information on how markets work through ongoing analysis of the factors affecting petroleum supply and demand.

In mid-October, representatives from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment will attend the federal/provincial/territorial workshop to discuss the terms of reference and rules of engagement for the office of petroleum price information. We will have some general discussion on the role of the OPPI.

It is the intention of this government to work closely with the OPPI.

It is the intention of this government to work closely with the OPPI as a single-window access to consumer information and federal government programs in areas such as energy efficiency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 27-15(4): Energy Use And Conservation

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, as we know too well, the price of fuel and power over the last several years has been continuing to escalate, and the price of crude oil has risen more than 40 percent since January of 2005. This has prompted the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Department of Transportation to take actions to mitigate the impact and to continue to plan for future conservation initiatives.

Transportation has taken a number of initiatives in the past to conserve on energy consumption, including rehabilitation and refits of major buildings. An example includes the retrofit of some of our maintenance garages with many translucent overhead doors to improve our energy efficiency and provide more natural light. We have also undertaken, in partnership with the Arctic Energy Alliance, numerous energy audits to determine what buildings and what retrofits should be considered. These

audits resulted in building modifications to conserve energy.

Mr. Speaker, energy conservation is an ongoing issue for Transportation, and a number of initiatives are being pursued with this objective. This includes establishment of an equipment management system to better track equipment utilization expenditures and costs, and the development of an environmental strategy to consider, amongst other items, a wide range of activities to address conservation both in the departmental activities and wider transportation industry.

To address the many concerns for energy conservation, there are a number of initiatives being considered. This includes the implementation of a smart driving program for all operational drivers. The department will work with other GNWT departments in a broader implementation of energy conservation measures.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is also working to address the impact of rising energy costs, not as a direct user but as a key supporter of community governments.

We have seen, through the progressive work of communities such as Whati, where energy conservation and alternative energy use are a priority, that there are innovative ways for communities to reduce consumption and related costs.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the department is working to finalize negotiations with the federal government on the transfer of gas tax funding to the Northwest Territories, and the funding is expected to flow to the NWT communities starting in this fiscal year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: This funding is intended to promote environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure. Municipal and Community Affairs has pushed to broaden the project criteria for gas tax funding so that communities can use it to support energy efficient components of other infrastructure; for example, solar panels on a community office.

Mr. Speaker, Whati has been a leader in exploring options for energy conservation and alternative energy sources. However, Whati is not the only community undertaking work in this area. For example, Jean Marie River is looking into solar panel options for the band office, and Colville Lake is exploring alternative energy sources for the new water treatment plant.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, we may never be able to keep up with the cost of fuel, especially at the current consumption level, so it is critically important to look at alternatives, and to support the community governments to lead the work on this at the community level.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the departments of Transportation and Municipal and Community Affairs are taking action to address the ever-rising costs of energy. Rising costs will continue to be an ongoing issue, so it is essential that we look for innovative approaches to reduce energy consumption, limit costs and increase efficiency in

our use of non-renewable resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Minister's Statement 28-15(4): Energy Management Initiatives

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House about some of the steps that have been taken by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to further improve our energy management.

The Housing Corporation has taken a proactive approach to energy efficiency in its construction projects for many years. Additionally, the corporation has benefited greatly from the historically low rates of utility consumption by public housing tenants as compared to residents of private rental accommodations. Both efforts have lessened the impact of increased fuel and energy prices on the corporation and its clients and have helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the Northwest Territories. These benefits will be further realized through the continued education and awareness of our clients regarding energy consumption.

Specific corporation efforts in this area are too numerous to list in this statement; however, there are some that I would like to highlight today. Local housing organizations have made a concerted effort to make use of energy-efficient appliances, fluorescent lighting and other measures intended to further reduce energy costs. In partnership with the Arctic Energy Alliance, the corporation has held energy conservation workshops in communities and conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the use of low consumption bathroom fixtures to replace the older, high volume units used in public housing units.

The corporation has also acted independently to further improve its energy efficiency. As an example, in 2004-05 the corporation installed four solar water pre-heaters for public housing units to determine cost effectiveness. The corporation also meets regularly with industry leaders with the goal of finding technologies that can further reduce energy use in our public housing units. One such meeting resulted in an initiative currently underway to field test high efficiency heating systems. These systems will be installed and evaluated in Hay River, Norman Wells and Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other energy management initiatives that the corporation has implemented in recent years. I extend an invitation to all Members to contact me should they wish to discuss these initiatives in greater detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 29-15(4): Energy Awareness

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. The recent rise in energy costs will have an

effect on many NWT residents. While market forces may see the price of energy decrease, unfortunately there is no expectation that this will happen in the near future. Long-term solutions are needed.

This issue is broader than just the cost of department programs. We must also make a concerted effort to use our energy resources more wisely.

With this in mind, I would like to outline measures the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is considering to keep our overall costs down, while building public understanding of the importance of effective conservation practices. During the upcoming year we plan to:

- develop an energy awareness campaign for our schools so that young people are aware of the need to be wise consumers of energy. This will help us address not only short-term objectives, but also create a future generation of citizens who exercise wise decisions around energy use. The campaign will build upon aspects of the curriculum that are already in place that focus on issues surrounding the environment and human habitation;
- work with education authorities to document current practices in the use of energy in schools, set targets for decreasing consumption, and develop a plan to implement and monitor actions and outcomes. To do this, we will work closely with our partners -- those who utilize our facilities -- to ensure that plans are well understood and remain supportive of our program delivery;
- develop an energy awareness campaign for residents who utilize our programs and services, including those accessing income support and seniors' programs. By providing information and referrals to experts, we will assist our plans in building their understanding of conservation techniques;
- finally, we will work closely with organizations such as the Arctic Energy Alliance and Environment and Natural Resources to ensure that our awareness campaigns are coordinated in a manner that maximizes effectiveness and avoids duplication.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier that we are all faced with rising costs to meet our energy needs. Our social programs provide a safety net for people in greatest need. For example, our Income Support Program covers the full cost of utilities for qualified individuals. Our senior Home Heating Subsidy Program provides support based on the amount of fuel rather than the cost.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment will be working with divisional education authorities and councils to determine how we can work together to address the high cost of fuel. I plan to discuss energy conservation when I meet with board chairs in November.

Mr. Speaker, energy conservation is an important goal. If we are to achieve success, we will need to enlist the support of all residents. By encouraging students to think and learn about energy conservation in school, they will help spread that message in their homes and communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Minister's Statement 30-15(4): Reduction Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible for promoting energy conservation and the use of energy-efficient technology in the Northwest Territories.

Reduced energy consumption not only helps northerners deal with the increased cost of fuel, but it helps reduce the impact of fossil fuels on our environment.

Between 1996 and 2001, greenhouse gas emissions from the Northwest Territories rose by 60 percent, related to the increase in major development in the Northwest Territories. However, the NWT accounts for a very small portion of Canada's total annual greenhouse gas emissions: less than .3 percent. On a per capita basis, the NWT releases 40 tonnes of emissions per person per year, significantly higher than the national average of 22 tonnes per person per year.

These emissions have the potential to cause a change in our climate, which could significantly disrupt the global environment, and affects our ability to lead healthy and productive lives.

This government supports global and local actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases believed to cause climate change. These global actions include the Kyoto Protocol negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Northwest Territories has a responsibility to contribute to the Kyoto Protocol and support Canada's position as a leader amongst nations in protecting the global environment.

We are aggressively working to control greenhouse gas emissions. The Greenhouse Gas Strategy identifies a wide range of initiatives and proposed actions to achieve this.

I have met with the federal Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Stephane Dion, a number of times in the past few months to continue to work towards a bilateral MOU for cooperation on addressing climate change with the Government of Canada. Through the MOU we will be requesting a federal partnership fund to support hydro development in the NWT. We are hoping to be able to sign an MOU in early December at the Eleventh Conference of the Parties, COP11, which is a major international United Nations meeting on climate change being held in Montreal.

We are committed to working with the federal and provincial governments to develop an equitable approach to Canada's international commitment to reduce national emissions to six percent below 1990 levels by the year 2013.

Actions to control greenhouse gas emissions in the Northwest Territories are being developed in cooperation with a broad range of stakeholders. These actions will reduce the negative impacts of greenhouse gas emissions

on our health and environment while minimizing negative impacts on our economy and taking advantage of the economic opportunities arising from the use of more efficient equipment and materials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 31-15(4): NWT Energy Plan

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, reliable energy services such as electricity and heating fuel are essential.

The Premier and my Cabinet colleagues have outlined many of the measures that NWT residents, businesses and governments can and will take to counter the rising costs of these energy services in the short term.

However, conservation is just one element of the GNWT's responsibility for energy management. We must also address the underlying cause of increased energy costs.

In the long term, we will continue to require access to affordable and reliable energy sources to meet our daily needs and those of our growing economy.

Today almost all of our territory's annual energy supply is imported, in the form of fossil fuels, from southern Canada. We can neither control nor regulate the cost of this energy, and as we have seen, it is subject to sudden and large increases in response to world events, tragedy and the supply and demand nature of the global economy.

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

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, we have significant renewable and non-renewable energy resources, including an extensive potential in natural gas and hydroelectricity right in our backyard.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, through its newly created energy unit and working with other departments and agencies, is now leading the development of a GNWT energy plan to develop and secure access to its own future and alternate energy sources. Developing these resources will serve not only to reduce energy costs in our communities, but also to generate new economic growth for our territory as a whole.

In the coming months, I will be collaborating with the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources to present a discussion paper revisiting our energy future. It will set the stage for a full and complete consultation on a broad scope of energy issues, beginning with the fundamental elements of supply, demand and regulation.

Together we will consider domestic and export markets for the development and use of our non-renewable,

renewable and alternative energy sources, like powering more of our communities and industries such as the diamond mines with hydroelectricity and identifying options for natural gas conversion in communities. It will mark, I hope, the emergence of the Northwest Territories as a supplier of secure, affordable and sustainable energy, first and foremost for itself, Mr. Speaker, and then for all Canadians and the North American marketplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Tuktoyaktuk To Inuvik All-Weather Road

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I may be starting to sound like a broken record, but during the life of the 15th Assembly I will continue to pursue and raise the issue of a Tuktoyaktuk/Inuvik all-weather road.

---Applause

Over the last couple of months, the Mackenzie Valley highway has garnered national attention when our Premier managed to get support from his provincial and territorial counterparts advancing the project.

Mr. Speaker, this project can become a reality provided this government can work with the federal government to secure the necessary funding. I know that in the GNWT's Corridors for Canada there was a \$15 million partnership agreement proposed to build an access road to gravel source 177. This is the start of the Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik highway. It has been a couple of years, and I am hoping that the project can start to gain momentum.

Not to detract from the Mackenzie Valley highway, Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that the simplest way to connect the Canadian highway system from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic Ocean is to build the Tuktoyaktuk/Inuvik all-weather road first.

Canadian sovereignty is of interest to all Canadians, and connecting the Arctic Ocean to our national highway system would show the world that we are serious. An added benefit would be the increased economic development opportunities that would obviously follow the construction of an all-weather road, all-weather highway to Tuktoyaktuk. I could see many tourists waiting, wanting to drive the extra distance just to see Tuktoyaktuk and the Arctic Ocean. Prices should also go down for residents of Tuktoyaktuk.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we need to make this dream a reality. We need to excite Canadians about a highway system that goes from coast to coast to coast, so that we can get funding from the federal government. We can make this happen and ensure our people are employed and not relying on income support. A highway would decrease the reliance on government programs in the Beaufort-Delta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Land For Development In Yellowknife

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise to bring the House's attention to the City's difficulty in getting the land it needs for development.

Yellowknife is a growing city; it needs land for homes, businesses and green space. It shouldn't come as a surprise to the MACA Minister. Although the Premier indicated in June that the government had no requests for residential land from the city before it, I understand now that that was not the case and that there were several applications still outstanding at that time.

I was pleased to hear the MACA Minister has recently made a timely decision on some parcels for the City of Yellowknife, but I was surprised and very disappointed that the majority of the requests were still at bay waiting further negotiations and the land selection process.

Despite the Premier's assurance last June that MACA and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs were working effectively and cooperatively with both the City of Yellowknife and the Yellowknives Dene, I don't know how other people define "effectively," but to me "effectively" means getting results in a timely way.

Mr. Speaker, people need houses and land to grow their businesses in our city. It is growing, and it needs help from this government. I know that we can come up with an arrangement respecting the rights and definitely the needs of the Yellowknives Dene that also recognizes the city's needs because it is growing.

I am here today to tell you that the City of Yellowknife wants to grow in a fair and reasonable way with clear, direct and fair consultation with the Yellowknives Dene. I don't believe that there will be a loser in any way. We can work so everyone can win together. At some point, consultation needs to end and decisions need to be made by this MACA Minister so the city of Yellowknife can grow in a fair and reasonable way.

Later today, Mr. Speaker, I will have thought-provoking questions for the Minister of MACA, and I look for defined leadership from that government over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Family Violence Awareness Week

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, October 9th to 15th, 2005, is Family Violence Awareness Week. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, family violence continues to be as pervasive as ever and a shadowy reality in the North.

This is an important time for the residents of the NWT to stop and reflect on the challenges presented by family violence. It is also a time for us to recommit ourselves to the reduction and elimination of family violence.

---Applause

Awareness of the issue is definitely the first step in recognizing its existence and bringing about its eradication. Awareness also means recognizing the important work of dedicated workers in this field of family support.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the shelter workers and counsellors, and especially the work of the staff at the Hay River Family Support Centre under the direction of Crystal Ball, who is the executive director. I would also like to recognize and congratulate the Hay River Family Support Centre on their 20th anniversary, which is also this week in October.

---Applause

It is important for us to ensure that these types of services are a high priority and given adequate resources. Mr. Speaker, adequate resources for the Hay River support centre means having stable, multi-year funding to address staffing shortages and high turnover that uncertainty in funding causes. Multi-year funding would also allow the Hay River Family Support Centre to plan for appropriate increases in wages for these dedicated employees.

Mr. Speaker, there is no funding for repairs and maintenance on their building. They need to be sure that when the furnace breaks down that they have money to replace it. They shouldn't have to wait until April 1st to find out if they're going to be funded for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the Hay River Family Support Centre has also seen a tremendous increase in usage of services, such as bed nights, the use of their 24-hour phone support line, client support and workshops, and some of these services have seen over a 600 percent increase in the past three years. The dramatic increase in usage reflects the awareness of the essential services the Hay River Family Support Centre provides for the residents not only of Hay River, but of surrounding communities. It also reflects the trust established between clients and support workers. The bottom line is that their services are extensively utilized, yet their funding has not kept pace with the demand for services. We need to respond to the issues and concerns raised by the family support centre in their public presentation to our committee during the pre-budget consultations that were held in Hay River this summer.

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

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say how much I appreciate the committee that did travel to Hay River and hear from many of our NGOs, including the family support centre, and I know that those MLAs who heard that presentation with me know exactly what I'm talking about today.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as a government we need to prove that we are committed to protecting the victims of family violence and to keeping faith with the support workers in this territory who are the ones who are on the

front lines, who are working to break the cycle of violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement On Students' Perspective On Samuel Hearne School

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the second day in a row I rise to speak about the Samuel Hearne Secondary School. Today I want to talk about the students' perspective and some of the things that they are saying. A few students have said that they don't mind using the college for classrooms because it prepares them for life after high school. One student wonders why the pilings were not repaired over the two-month summer break. She thinks the school should be knocked down and replaced before it knocks itself down. One young lady in her final year is worried whether her younger brother and sister will have a safe and healthy learning environment.

Mr. Speaker, the high school years should be some of the best young people have growing up before they head out into the real world. We have let our students down because we're not keeping the school safe, because people responsible for safety were not doing their job. The same people are still working and making decisions today.

Mr. Speaker, this situation is ridiculous. With all the construction going on around these students, many of them should have their trades tickets by now. Mr. Speaker, I'll say again that this government has let our students down. They should be enjoying their youth in a normal school, not worrying about whether it's going to fall down around them. I want to see this government live up to its obligation to fix the situation as soon as possible and make sure this never happens again in Inuvik or any other NWT community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Performance Concerns Regarding Corporate Human Resource Services

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are certain times in one's life that a person looks forward to, such as the birth of a child, a wedding day, graduation, or the first day of retirement. Mr. Speaker, my statement today is about retirement and how some of my constituents, former GNWT employees, are being denied their quality of life and the enjoyment that retirement should bring.

The two cases I would like to highlight for my colleagues on the other side of the House today are eerily similar. Both persons submitted letters of intent to retire from the GNWT. One gives five months' notice, the other four months. Both of these individuals repeatedly -- and I have all the correspondence to back it up, Mr. Speaker -- on as many as 13 separate occasions contact was made with Corporate Human Resource Services in FMBS to try and pin down a date and a time that they could get together to

go over the paperwork to conclude their careers with the GNWT.

In instance number one, Mr. Speaker, my constituent waited, tried, and waited some more for a meeting. With the help of the UNW they finally got one, four days prior to their retirement. The FMBS office that met with them came to the meeting, Mr. Speaker, with all of the paperwork pre-dated and pre-signed. The reason for termination was deemed resignation and not retirement. This individual retired on August the 12th and was promised the first pension cheque on September 30th. September 30th comes and goes, no cheque, no word. The person had to take it upon themselves to call the superannuation office in Shediac, New Brunswick, to find out what exactly the disposition of their file was, because there was definitely no way they could get a straight answer out of corporate human resource services. To their surprise, New Brunswick let them know that FMBS had failed on two separate occasions to send in two required forms.

In the second case, my constituent did not sign the paperwork until one full week after the retirement date. The story here is about exactly the same as the first. The same forms missing, 13 requested meetings, New Brunswick not having the forms, no pension cheque, and a major, major blunder on severance having to require a grievance being laid.

I have been supportive of the centralization of the HR function in this government...

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

MR. RAMSAY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been a supporter of the centralized HR function for this government, and I can appreciate the fact that there will be some growing pains. However, what the government has to understand and take note of is that these are people's lives that we're dealing with and both of these individuals have 30-plus years of service with the GNWT, and for them to be treated as unfairly as they have been is a disaster. I certainly will have some questions for the Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Community Policing

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Problems of drugs, crime and violence are a concern to residents across this country. Residents of the NWT, sadly, are not immune to these problems. Earlier this summer I heard from a number of constituents in a neighbourhood about increasing drug dealing and problems related to this activity, particularly crack and cocaine in Yellowknife. We

know that these reports extend also from our streets, our neighbourhoods and even, most disturbingly, Mr. Speaker, from our schools. More and more citizens though are saying that they will not put up with drugs on our streets and are taking action to make this a reality. Individual citizens, community organizations, the City of Yellowknife and the RCMP, can and are working together to put a serious counter-attack on drugs and violence.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago I was pleased to have the opportunity, along with other Yellowknife MLAs, to meet with the new officer in charge of the Yellowknife RCMP detachment, Inspector Roch Fortin. I saw there a new level of commitment and a new vision for policing in this city. They are adopting some new approaches; they are more visible and active on the streets and in the community. How are they doing this? They're taking new approaches; for instance, to administration through greater cooperation between our own Justice employees and their own RCMP officers. We're seeing new and better technology in the form of updated computer systems that are also assisting the fight against crime, and the RCMP and GNWT Victim Services Program will be enhancing their combined services to help the individuals and families who fall victim to the actions of criminals.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Inspector Fortin and Yellowknife Mayor Gordon Van Tighem for establishing a Yellowknife area Police Advisory Committee and the steps they're taking to make Yellowknife a safer and healthier place to live. This committee is set up to assist the RCMP in recognizing community concerns and priorities. It's another avenue for the community to have input into policing services.

There's more, Mr. Speaker. Apartment and property owners are joining forces to make their facilities more peaceful and crime and violence-free, as evidenced by Midwest Property Management joining together with the police in a crime-free multi-housing project.

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

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many community organizations are working together to deal with family violence and drug issues. The Crack Busters program has the Tree of Peace and Salvation Army behind it. We have the Citizens on Patrol. We have the Community Wellness Coalition. Mr. Speaker, the message here is that there are community solutions to community problems if citizens take action, like constituents calling the RCMP. There are frontline service organizations, and I would certainly say there are MLAs to help get action. The message is we do not have to and we will not put up with drugs and violence in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement On Bison Hazard On Highway No. 3

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (English not provided)

Mr. Speaker, each and every year there are travellers encountering more and more problems with bison on Highway No. 3. Motorists are continually being warned to pay close attention against collision with these animals. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is it's getting worse. As winter is fast approaching, darkness falls a lot earlier. Bison on the highway jeopardize safety of motorists and cause serious injuries or carnage of these animals.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine wrote off his vehicle because he ran into a full-grown buffalo on Highway No. 3. There is little time to react because they are not easy to see in the dark. I'm certain, Mr. Speaker, that I speak for most of the motorists in the North, especially the ones who travel on Highway No. 3, that it is a matter of time until a serious accident or multi-fatalities occur. Every year these bison get closer and closer to Yellowknife and as that portion of Highway No. 3 is used for the most part by my constituents of the Tlicho region, I am very concerned about that issue.

I have heard a number of suggestions from my constituents; ideas that I think will help formulate a strategy for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in dealing with this bison hazard. Mr. Speaker, waiting for a serious accident to occur before we set legislation in place is not being proactive, it's being reactive. We must not wait any longer.

Mr. Speaker, it makes more sense to use one of the suggestions of using fluorescent tags on these bison so motorists can see them from a distance. Also using rubber bullets to encourage them to stay away from highways. Another suggestion I fully support is local members harvesting these bison during the winter season, Mr. Speaker. I will have some questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources on this issue. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Norman Wells Aurora College

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement is on the Norman Wells Aurora College. Recent statistics on employment rates by the highest level of schooling demonstrates the importance of education. The employment rate for people with university degrees is over 90 percent in the Northwest Territories for 2004. For people with other certificates or diplomas it was over 85 percent. These statistics drop to 80 percent for people with high school only to less than 50 percent for people with Grade 9 to Grade 11, and to less than 35 percent for people with less than Grade 9 education.

As the late former President John F. Kennedy said: "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource." There are lots of present and future job opportunities in Norman Wells that the local people can

benefit and take advantage of; however, they need infrastructure for a proper facility to provide quality education.

In the Aurora College Annual Report 2003-2004, under the president's report there was mention of the evaluations of the programs offered by Aurora College to be very good. However, they did not mention about any type of evaluation of the facilities. Under the regional highlights in the 2003-2004 Aurora College Annual Report they talk about a beautiful facility being built in Inuvik. There is no mention of the old, falling apart, cramped ATCO trailer in Norman Wells. Community learning centres do not have to be fancy or state of the art, but they should be an inviting place that encourages students and people thinking about becoming students to spend some time there; enough space and equipment to allow people to concentrate on their studies and work. With the recent Minister's statements about the energy initiatives by this government, let's put those words into action. If you build it, they will come. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Incentive Programs To Address Rising Energy Costs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to respond to what appears to be a theme day on the part of the Cabinet on energy issues. Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I like some of the points raised by Cabinet, especially the fact that the Arctic Energy Alliance is going to receive the kind of respect and financial resources that I believe they have deserved for a long time. There was lots of warm and fuzzy stuff said in those statements, but if anybody was looking for a very specific financial break in regard to the rising fuel costs, I don't think anything was to be had there.

Mr. Speaker, especially deficient is for the help of the working poor, who make just enough money to not qualify for any income support or supplementary income programs, but not enough to easily absorb the increasing costs of heating and lighting our homes this winter. I believe, Mr. Speaker, there is room for the government to move in this regard and that is by giving incentives to working people to make their homes more energy efficient. The Government of PEI is doing something similar for those making less than \$30,000 and I don't believe, Mr. Speaker, anybody would suggest that the cut-off in the Territories should be at \$30,000. I believe most programs in the Housing Corporation cut-off are about \$70,000, and I'd like to suggest to the government that there be some incentive programs done up for those making up to \$100,000 of family income where a package of \$300, \$500 or \$1,000 could be given for the measures that the homeowners will take in conserving energy, whether they are replacing a leaky fuel tank, water tank, or extra caulking on their windows or hiring an expert to see whether their homes are energy smart. I believe there is lots of technology there and we, being the human beings that we are, will probably do more if there's some kind of financial incentive, and it would be to the benefit of the government and everybody.

I believe in the long run the best policy is energy reduction, and I have already asked the Minister of Public Works and Services to provide us with an inventory of all government buildings and see what kind of energy consumption measures could be taken there. I look forward to getting a report from him.

I would like to finish this statement by really encouraging the government to come up with incentive programs that would deal with consumption reduction. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Creative Solutions To Address Rising Fuel Costs

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today our Premier and all our Ministers spoke about energy. I commend our government in recognizing and addressing this huge impact of rising energy costs. We have yet to hear exactly how government will be addressing the real needs of our people, Mr. Speaker, people like granny from Nahanni. She wants to know how her fixed income will combat unprecedented rising heating and gasoline prices. She wants to know why, Mr. Speaker, she has to pay 10 times the national average for her power bill.

We do not need programs like a Beverage Container Recovery Program to add to her cost of living. We do not need restrictive income support guidelines that prevent us from accessing much needed programs. What we need, Mr. Speaker, is the guts of this government to say that every man and woman and child will get \$400 this winter.

---Applause

It doesn't have to be a cheque in the mail, Mr. Speaker. This can be achieved several ways. One, we can subsidize essential foods for smaller communities. We can review our elders' pension programs. We can review the income threshold limits, like the honourable Member for Range Lake said. We can offer lower power rates in diesel communities.

Residents in the NWT should never have to decide between food or heat. This government must continue with their proactive approach to this situation. We must continue the initiative of other jurisdictions and offer more and equal comprehensive assistance to all. Let us make our goal of reducing the cost of living mean something to our people and to ourselves, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, reports of special and standing committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a person that I've known for some time, a staff member of the office of the Indian Residential School Solution Canada, Ms. Irene Fraser.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome Mr. Todd Parsons, President of the UNW, and with him Ms. Gayla Wick, to the gallery today. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I'd like to welcome everybody that's in the gallery today. Welcome to the House. It's always nice to have an audience here. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 98-15(4): Adding Tuktoyaktuk To National Highway System

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I spoke of the need to connect Tuktoyaktuk to the Canadian national highway system.

---Applause

Can the Minister of Transportation inform this Assembly and the people of the Northwest Territories what progress is being made on the construction of the all-weather road from Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 98-15(4): Adding Tuktoyaktuk To National Highway System

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have discussed this issue of the Tuktoyaktuk road on a number of occasions in this House and I have indicated in those discussions that we have a document called Investing in Roads for People and the Economy, which was put together in the year 2000. It highlights a number of issues around the transportation systems, including the roads that need to be improved, the roads that have to be reconstructed, and we have made submissions to the federal government to do a number of reconstruction projects along those lines. We are now drafting a new proposal that we will be releasing in the near future that will be submitted to the federal government to continue that work.

We are also embarking on a national strategy, that the Premier is leading with his provincial counterparts, that has a national transportation system or strategy that will look at building a number of new roads, and that includes the extension of the road from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk. It is a very costly initiative. The numbers that we have to date are around \$700 million. Those documents are still in draft form, and they will be released to the public I believe some time in November. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 98-15(4): Adding Tuktoyaktuk To National Highway System

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear that the draft is coming out sometime in November. I'm just wondering, can the Minister, Mr. Speaker, indicate to this House on whether they can actually put forward the road from Tuktoyaktuk to source 177? That would be the start of the highway from Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 98-15(4): Adding Tuktoyaktuk To National Highway System

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to point to exactly all the initiatives because this document is still in draft form. But I would like to assure the Member that the road to Tuktoyaktuk is included in all our discussions and both our proposals. The proposals fit together. It's all part of a bigger vision statement. There are other initiatives in new areas that we have yet to develop proposals that we're working on. The Tlicho roads, for example, that we still have to work with the chiefs and we still have to work on realignment. That proposal has to be done. We are also talking with the Mackenzie gas project proponents and we're looking at the legacy projects. Of course we're taking consideration of the road to Tuktoyaktuk and the actual stretch that the Member is talking about to a gravel source, the 22 kilometre gravel source. So it is included in all our discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 98-15(4): Adding Tuktoyaktuk To National Highway System

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just one last follow-up. A few years ago there was one kilometre built between the source itself towards Tuktoyaktuk. Another 21 kilometres will actually hit Tuktoyaktuk. So like I say, can the Minister at least with the Cabinet consider finding the funds from the federal government to complete the 22 kilometres to the gravel source that can be fully extended towards the Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik highway? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 98-15(4): Adding Tuktoyaktuk To National Highway System

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've indicated already that we are committed to doing that and we have it included in a number of our different proposals and will continue to bring those forward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 99-15(4): Corporate Human Resource Services

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat and corporate human resource services. I go back to the statement that I

made earlier and getting back to retiring employees. I think there are a number of issues at play at this new corporate human resource service that I think need to be addressed, and ultimately somebody is responsible for how constituents of mine have been dealt with. I've heard other stories of other retiring employees that have waited up to six months to receive pension cheques and get service from FMBS. Mr. Speaker, like I said, somebody is responsible. I want to ask the Minister today what FMBS is doing to ensure that employees have a smooth transition into retirement, and is there a policy for retiring employees and what type of guidelines are there for that policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. A couple or three questions there. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 99-15(4): Corporate Human Resource Services

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the area of human resource service centres, as the Member has pointed out, we have realized throughout government, because of the way the human resources was decentralized, that every department had its own section, which caused us a fair bit of problems. We recognize that and put forward this plan to bring the human resource service into centres within each region and here in headquarters to work better with our employees to make sure the forms were getting done and those things were being dealt with. One of the problems we've found as a result of doing this amalgamation of the human resource services to the centres is that there have been a lot of files that needed attention and we've now put in the resources to address that backlog. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 99-15(4): Corporate Human Resource Services

MR. RAMSAY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from what I've heard from constituents of mine and from others is that it's an actual disaster, the human resource service centre today, and people are having a heck of a time trying to get any service. I want to ask the Minister why it should take my constituent 13 attempts to contact FMBS to set up a simple meeting to go over their paperwork so they can retire with the dignity that they deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 99-15(4): Corporate Human Resource Services

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the file that the Member has spoken of and I can inform him, and I think he's aware, that that file has been taken care of and information has been sent out. As for why it took 13 calls, I can't speak to that specifically. I haven't asked for that information from the department. I was aware that the file was being looked at and being dealt with. Unfortunately, as I was saying, as a result of creating the human resource service centres, we have found a large backlog of files that were not being dealt with when all departments had control of

those areas. We are now putting in the resources towards catching up with that backlog so that we can ensure employees are being dealt with in a fair and responsible manner. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 99-15(4): Corporate Human Resource Services

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is because they went and sought the assistance of the UNW. They came to see their MLA. That is why their case is being dealt with, Mr. Speaker. How many more people are out there going through the same difficulties having to contact FMBS 13 times to try and set up a meeting? I would like to ask the Minister, in both of the cases that I have, it involves two forms -- 2386 and a submit -- very simple forms. One is a pay scale and one is a verification on years of service. Does FMBS not have a checklist for employees so that when they send the paperwork to superannuation in New Brunswick, they can't simply check off a checklist? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 99-15(4): Corporate Human Resource Services

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when employees inform us that they will be retiring or transferring or leaving this government for whatever reason, there are forms that have to be filled out and sent in. From time to time, we find, unfortunately, that some forms are omitted or that the department the staff member was working for filled out some portion in error and caused a delay in the schedule that has been identified.

As I stated, we are working on improving the system. That is why corporate human resource service centres were established to create a better environment for employees. Through that initial plan putting everybody together and finding the office space, that has added to some of the backlog, but we are now working at clearing up that backlog and trying to ensure that employees don't have to wait for these long delays. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 99-15(4): Corporate Human Resource Services

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In both cases that I have outlined for the Minister earlier today, there is also the issue of severance. Both are being grieved right now. I would like to ask the Minister if he can address that issue as well, because on the forms that FMBS is filling out for people, they are putting in "resignation," not "retirement." They are only giving these employees 13 weeks' severance, not the 30 that they are entitled to. I would like to ask the Minister if he can address those two issues as well. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 99-15(4): Corporate Human Resource Services

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look into those specific problems in that area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 100-15(4): Requests For Development Lands In Yellowknife

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I promised earlier, I do have my thought-provoking questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, status quo has truly become the norm. The one-year land lease-only policy is probably up to 16 years of life. The roadblocks for the City of Yellowknife are still being put in front of them because they need land to develop in a reasonable way. They try to work with the Yellowknives. Will the Minister provide an update on the status of discussions between himself and the Yellowknives Dene on how the City's land requests are coming through and being transferred? This logjam must end. Can the Minister tell us how? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 100-15(4): Requests For Development Lands In Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his thought-provoking question.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, it is quite simple how the logjam, as the Member refers to the land issue in and around Yellowknife, would end once the municipality has control over the lands that are turned over to it by this government and once the Akaitcho Dene have their land selection all settled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 100-15(4): Requests For Development Lands In Yellowknife

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That wasn't quite the thought-provoking answer I was looking for.

---Laughter

I will certainly take any answer. He said once the land is turned over to the city by this government. Does he mean that it is the intention of his department to turn over all of the remaining lands in this term of this government to the City of Yellowknife? I just want to get some clarity on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 100-15(4): Requests For Development Lands In Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is the goal of this government to turn over lands in the city limit boundaries to the municipality as it is to turn over all lands in the different municipalities. Whether that can happen in the term of this government, I can't guarantee that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 100-15(4): Requests For Development Lands In Yellowknife

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will we still have a piecemeal process going on? I compliment the Minister on allowing a transfer to go through just in September that gave the city access to three parcels of land. We further pushed back the rest of the lands for a decision to be made in January. Regardless of what is going to happen in January, is the Minister prepared to act on the remaining outstanding applications that the City of Yellowknife has for lands and stop holding the city hostage? They need to continue to develop lands for houses and businesses, et cetera. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 100-15(4): Requests For Development Lands In Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize the needs that Yellowknife has and the pressures they are facing in terms of land, but it is also important to recognize that the Akaitcho Dene have a process that is recognized by the highest law of the land: the federal Crown and the treaties that were signed with them. We have to respect that. I will do my best to ensure that Yellowknife has lands that they can use for some of their needs in the area, but I also have to do my best to ensure that the Yellowknives' rights are looked after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 100-15(4): Requests For Development Lands In Yellowknife

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No one wants to circumvent the process for the Yellowknives Dene in the land that is rightly theirs. But, Mr. Speaker, consultation needs to come to a close eventually. So if there is still a process that has reached no further results due to the negotiations on land selection, what is the Minister going to do? Is he going to finally agree to turn over those lands in January that the city has had out on request for quite a long time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 100-15(4): Requests For Development Lands In Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a side table on lands around the Yellowknife area in the Akaitcho traditional area is something that we supported for some time. We have not been able to reach

that level until recently. Discussions have taken place. All issues involving lands around Yellowknife and the Akaitcho area are going to be put on the table for discussion. I welcome that. The department welcomes that. The government supports that. We are hoping that it will be resolved. All the identification will be resolved by January. Failing that, it would need more time. It depends where we are. The land issue is something that we have done a lot of consultation on. The issues are basically all in front of us. I am assuming that we will be able to make those decisions come January. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 101-15(4): Norman Wells Community Learning Centre

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke in my Member's statement about the Norman Wells Aurora College, the community learning centre and about the facility that is in Norman Wells. Can the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment tell me if there are any future plans to relocate the Norman Wells Community Learning Centre to a more suitable location in the town of Norman Wells? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 101-15(4): Norman Wells Community Learning Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had hoped to be able to bring this project forward in this current year because I visited the learning centre and would agree with the Member that it is far from ideal. It does need to be replaced. Unfortunately, given the other pressures that we had with schools in the Northwest Territories, we ran up to the limit of the capital plan before that project could be included. So it will be one that I am hoping will come forward in the very near future. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 101-15(4): Norman Wells Community Learning Centre

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister is going to bat for the town of Norman Wells on this facility here. However, can the Minister tell me whether this tiny, run-down ATCO trailer in Norman Wells is a typical community learning centre across the Northwest Territories, or is it standing out as a sore thumb in terms of the facilities that the department owns in Education? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 101-15(4): Norman Wells Community Learning Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of another facility that is in as much need of replacement as the learning centre in Norman Wells when it comes to Aurora College facilities.

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

Supplementary To Question 101-15(4): Norman Wells Community Learning Centre

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, the Minister is very accurate on his observation of our facility in Norman Wells in terms of the Aurora College. I would like to ask the Minister if he would be committed to meeting with possibly the Town of Norman Wells or the Aurora College authorities to possibly look at alternative locations for this centre and also see what they could come up with. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 101-15(4): Norman Wells Community Learning Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite prepared to work with the Aurora College Board of Governors and see what we can do in terms of replacing the facility in Norman Wells. I would be prepared to meet with the Town and other groups, but we need to make sure that we can find the money in the capital plan. That is my first goal: to try and move that forward. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 101-15(4): Norman Wells Community Learning Centre

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the town of Norman Wells in the Sahtu region, there is every oil and gas activity. I just can't see that this government is putting a centre like this that we desperately need on the back burner of the capital plan. Would the Minister again assure the people of Norman Wells that this learning centre in Norman Wells gets high priority in terms of putting it back on the capital plan before any more beautiful new buildings like the one building in Inuvik are built? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 101-15(4): Norman Wells Community Learning Centre

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have told the Member, I am quite prepared to work with the college board of governors and the community to look at where we can fit the facility in Norman Wells into the capital plan. I do agree that we need to look at it as an urgent need for Norman Wells. That facility really needs some attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 102-15(4): GNWT Participation On Mackenzie Valley Land And Water Board

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources today on the much talked about Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and how it is functioning. Does the GNWT have a representative and a

voice on the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board this time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 102-15(4): GNWT Participation On Mackenzie Valley Land And Water Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do.

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

Supplementary To Question 102-15(4): GNWT Participation On Mackenzie Valley Land And Water Board

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister then who that is. I would like to ask him how we provide input. As the GNWT, we suggest a representative. The federal government appoints them. How are we assured of their effective and full participation and representation on that board on our behalf? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. There are two questions there. You can answer one or both of them, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 102-15(4): GNWT Participation On Mackenzie Valley Land And Water Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we nominate that person. That person currently is Mr. Jack Van Camp from Fort Smith; an individual with eminent credentials and qualifications. The ideal is that the board and its members function effectively, working with the board chair to represent the interests of all northerners. That is what we are striving to do with this board. We are working on some current issues to make sure that we, in fact, maintain that level of effectiveness. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 102-15(4): GNWT Participation On Mackenzie Valley Land And Water Board

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since the appointment of a new chair to that board in the person of Mr. Todd Burlingame, is he satisfied that Mr. Van Camp, who he says is eminently capable -- and I totally agree with him on that -- has been kept informed of applications that have been reviewed in unsettled areas, that he has been kept informed with correspondence, attendance at meetings, has been kept in the loop as a participant on the board? Is the Minister satisfied that that has occurred in recent months? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 102-15(4): GNWT Participation On Mackenzie Valley Land And Water Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: No, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in fact, I have had significant concerns to the extent that, on August 10th, I did write to the Minister of DIAND to express those concerns very clearly in writing about the need to have a functioning board and a board that engaged fully all the members to represent both the settled and unsettled claims areas. As I indicated, I did write to him very clearly outlining that concern. He responded on September 27th. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 102-15(4): GNWT Participation On Mackenzie Valley Land And Water Board

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister then if he is satisfied that the federal Minister understands the nature of our concern and if this will result in a change in practice or a change in attitude that would ensure Mr. Van Camp's full participation, and will he keep us, as Members, apprised of what flows as a result of the communication? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 102-15(4): GNWT Participation On Mackenzie Valley Land And Water Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Minister Scott clearly said in his letter that he was committed to a fully functioning board where all members, including Mr. Van Camp, are engaged and not put on the sidelines. It is my expectation that he will transmit that sentiment to the board chair and that this issue that has bedevilled us for some time now will no longer be on our agenda and we can all get back with the other pressing issues at hand. I will be tracking this issue very closely with the board member and, if necessary, we will take further action. The Premier, as well as the Cabinet, is aware of the circumstance. It is one that we would like to see rectified so that we can get on with the work that is on the agenda. Thank you.

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

Question 103-15(4): Incentive Programs To Reduce Energy Consumption

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are in line with the statement I made earlier about the energy issues that the Cabinet read out earlier today. Mr. Speaker, my question goes to the Minister of Public Works and Services. I believe in the long run that this has to be about reduction of consumption no matter where the energy cost levels are. They go up and down. We have no idea how bad this is going to be and for how long. I think that we have to be always vigilant. We live in a very affluent society. We like to have big houses and big cars and such. We forget that we have limited

resources when it comes to energy. I believe there is an important role for the government to play. One, it is the biggest consumer of energy in the North. The government can do a lot to make sure that their vehicles and all the things that we own and use are used in a most energy-efficient manner. The second thing is to provide incentives to the working poor, the homeowners, to do more to reduce consumption. I would like to know if the Minister and the Cabinet have considered any incentive programs to get the people to do whatever they can for their houses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 103-15(4): Incentive Programs To Reduce Energy Consumption

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the Department of Public Works and Services itself, we have looked at a number of initiatives for dealing with government assets and facilities. One of the things we are doing is in the area of thermal scan to see how our buildings are operating and how much heat loss there is and where that heat loss is occurring. That is an area that we are going to be improving on as well as the building practices that we now have in place here in the Territories. We know that adds cost to the facilities up front but feel that it is important over the life of that facility that there would be savings.

As for actual incentives from the Department of Public Works and Services itself, we are not providing incentives. In the area of these thermal scans, when we are in the communities, we will be announcing that we will be able to look at private facilities and homes to do work in that area.

In the other areas of energy, as the Premier has announced, Cabinet is dealing with this issue on an ongoing basis, and has a specific item every time we sit down around the energy initiatives, and has, as well, a lead deputy amongst the deputies to deal with the issue of all departments in pooling their information. So we are working on a number of initiatives. Some of them will just give more information to the public, and some will work on programs so that we might be able to support them in lowering their energy costs. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 103-15(4): Incentive Programs To Reduce Energy Consumption

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to narrow my supplementary question to individual homes rather than the government, although I started on two and I might have confused the Minister. I know the Minister is referring to many of the committees and meetings and, God only knows, the studies we did in the last Assembly, spending millions of dollars. If we spent that money trying to make our homes more efficient, we might be a lot better off now. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated in his Minister's statement about working with the Arctic Energy Alliance and the supplementary funding that he will be bringing forward. I was assuming that in that package there would be some kind of incentive package for energy reduction of consumption. Is there anything that we can look forward to that works in that area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 103-15(4): Incentive Programs To Reduce Energy Consumption

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there will be some areas where the money will be spent on helping individuals lower their consumption. One is the energy audits on their homes; one would be the areas, for example, on furnaces and heating systems to provide some assistance to have those systems tuned up. As we know, with a proper operating system, there can be savings in that area. There are a number of areas that we are looking at, but there are small portions that we will be able to assist homeowners with. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 103-15(4): Incentive Programs To Reduce Energy Consumption

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, I really like this thermal scan thing. I think that that is something that we should use a lot more, and I know that we are going to use this for government buildings and huge buildings. I think we should somehow set up a program where individual homeowners could use this service at a low cost or no cost to see how energy efficient their homes are. Failing that, I am sure there are experts in our communities who could do this. Will the government look into helping our people do that; help with the cost of getting experts in to see where we could save more energy in our home? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 103-15(4): Incentive Programs To Reduce Energy Consumption

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we would be willing to look at a number of initiatives out there that can help people reduce their consumption of energy and the thermal scam idea is...

--Laughter

...thermal scan idea is one that is something we use on our own facilities, and when we travel in the communities we will make that available to community governments and we can look at seeing if it can be used for individual homes as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 103-15(4): Incentive Programs To Reduce Energy Consumption

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the supplementary funding that the Minister will be bringing forward will have some of this information. Could the Minister indicate when we should expect to have this information in the House, so we can have further discussion on the details of what he is proposing? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 103-15(4): Incentive Programs To Reduce Energy Consumption

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, I will be bringing forward, as the Minister of Finance, a supplementary appropriation document to this House. We will be dealing with it, I think, about the middle of our sitting time here in this session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Question 104-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Service

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Transportation, with regard to the ferry service strike in Nahendeh. Despite the federal ruling against the ferry service being listed as essential services, the residents of Fort Simpson and Wrigley do consider it a life line to the rest of the world. On behalf of my constituents, I would like to know what position the government is taking with respect to the strike there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 104-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is recognized that the Liard ferry services are very important to the people of Nahendeh, especially the communities of Fort Simpson and Wrigley, and will cause some disruption in terms of service for those communities. However, this is a labour dispute between the PSAC employees and a private company, and the Department of Transportation is trying its best to stay out of the discussions and not get involved directly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 104-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Service

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The workers that are on strike were only asking for a fair wage for the work that they do, Mr. Speaker. Is our government in any position to offer any arbitration in this matter?

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

Further Return To Question 104-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this issue for the ferry services is regulated by the federal government under the Canadian Labour Code, and they are the government responsible for this whole issue of dispute.

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

Supplementary To Question 104-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Service

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know what this government is going to do in terms of getting the ferry service back up and running, Mr. Speaker. We have got at least three weeks or at least another month worth of sailing time, as it were, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 104-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, the Department of Transportation plays no part in the negotiations. Our obligation lies with the contractor that is hired to provide a service and we are not planning to intervene in any form at this time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 104-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Service

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was just wondering, is it not our duty to the public as well as the traveling public, and I would like to know if the Minister is looking at a continuation of our services for the ferry in Nahendeh. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 104-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course this government is very disappointed the two sides were not able to come to a settlement on this issue. The government will continue to monitor the situation and look at the options available. However, at this point we will just be monitoring the situation and not providing any other alternative service. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 105-15(4): Bison Hazard On Highway No. 3

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke of the dangers that the bison are posing for motorists on Highway No. 3. I strongly advocate for the need for a strategy to deal with this public safety issue. Public safety is a huge issue. Can the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources inform the Assembly whether his department has a strategy in place to deal with the bison on Highway No. 3? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 105-15(4): Bison Hazard On Highway No. 3

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of concern to the Department of Transportation as well as Energy and Natural Resources. There is work being done in terms of public education, better signage, trying to determine exactly from a scientific point of view if there are specific things that attract the bison to the road right-of-way. Extra money has been requested and put into the budget to, in fact, start that work. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 105-15(4): Bison Hazard On Highway No. 3

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the department is working closely with the Department of Transportation. Can the Minister also commit on working with the local Behchoko community government to deal with the bison issue? Will there be a harvesting of them or putting florescent tags on them so they can be reflective; also, initiating rubber bullets for discouraging them from going onto the highway, Mr. Speaker? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 105-15(4): Bison Hazard On Highway No. 3

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are issues with the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, not only on Highway No. 3, but issues with the community of Fort Providence in terms of the buffalo in the community. We are very interested and will be taking steps to work with the local community governments to look at what options there are to try to deal with the issue of the bison, both on the road right-of-way and other areas of concern with this herd.

We have already tried rubber bullets in the past, I understand. It has a very short-term effect. The issue of some type of harvest is one we would have to look at and discuss, both with the department and the involved community governments, which we would be interested in and willing to do. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 105-15(4): Bison Hazard On Highway No. 3

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me the timeline on the development of a strategy to deal with the bison on Highway No. 3, especially with respect to harvesting from the community's perspective? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 105-15(4): Bison Hazard On Highway No. 3

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to quickly point

out as I respond to this question that the issue of wildlife and road accidents is one that is an issue across the country. In Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, they estimate over \$1 million in each of their jurisdictions as a result of collisions with wildlife; and the fundamental responsibility still is with the driver of the vehicle.

With regard to the Member's specific question about when, we have already started work on a number of the areas we've already talked about and we are willing to sit down as soon as it can be arranged, both with the community governments and involved parties in Behchoko as well as Providence. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty. Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 106-15(4): Community Policing In Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Merci beaucoup, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions this afternoon are for the Minister of Justice, and they are in relation to community policing in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT has a responsibility for contracting with the RCMP to deliver policing services across the Northwest Territories. The Yellowknife detachment has, for years, been recognized as chronically understaffed. The city has grown considerably and the complexity of crime and policing has also grown. I would like to ask the Minister, from his point of view, what progress has been made or what steps are underway right now to enhance police presence in the Yellowknife RCMP detachment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 106-15(4): Community Policing In Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member will recall, the G division of the RCMP provided this government, my department, with a business plan that speaks to the need for resources going forward and what they see as a shortfall in current resources. We are working very closely with them to try to address that. Of course, we have an upcoming budget session and we will have further discussions related to this, but I guess I can give my assurance that we are working closely with the RCMP to try to meet some of these staff and resources, not only in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, but right across the Northwest Territories. One of our main priorities, in fact, is to deal with those communities that don't have detachments and talk about the provision of service in those communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 106-15(4): Community Policing In Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the aspects of enhanced policing -- and the Minister quite appropriately said we are looking for services across the NWT -- is the provision in the NWT of a specially trained dog in the area of drug detection that would be based in

Yellowknife and would be available for increased enforcement. Can the Minister advise whether this is part of the business plan and part of the service we can expect to see on site here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 106-15(4): Community Policing In Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the drug dog the Member is speaking of, a full-profile German Shepard dog trained in drug detection, has already been deployed in the Northwest Territories. The Member is correct; it is based in Yellowknife, but that dog will be used right across the entire territory. I believe that is currently already in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 106-15(4): Community Policing In Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the welcome pieces of information that we got when we visited the RCMP detachment a few weeks ago was that there is going to be much more involvement of the Victims Services Program in the whole policing regime. Are we able to handle, through this Victims Services Program, our current workload, and what's our capacity to handle what is likely to be an increased workload for the Victims Services Program? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 106-15(4): Community Policing In Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have victims assistance committees that we felt needed additional help. We brought on new members. I believe there are two new members appointed to the Victims Assistance Committee, and I believe that's the committee the Member is speaking of. Now we are up to full membership. There have been a few meetings and proposals put forward that will speak to additional funding through the victims assistance fund. I know there is an amount of money that's available through that fund. I don't have the number in front of me, but I know that money is being accessed. We are also working on being able to deliver the latest annual report that should be out currently. I do agree that this is a priority that is becoming more and more important. We are recognizing the value of this committee and these efforts and valuing the entire system more. I think you can certainly look forward to more of a heightened profile for this aspect of the system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 106-15(4): Community Policing In Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the RMCP is demonstrating quite a refreshing attitude toward being more connected with the community in the delivery of community priorities for policing. I wonder if the department has been looking at the Police Advisory Committee model that just started

here as a way of potentially assisting other communities in the NWT to have a better connection with policing in their community. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 106-15(4): Community Policing In Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the model the Member is referring is certainly a good one. It is something we are reviewing. I know the RCMP is very much in favour of having as much community involvement as possible and I think that enables them to do a much better job. The closer they are able to work with this community and all communities across the North, obviously the more effective they are going to be. So this is a direction that we are continuing to move toward. I think policing is getting much more progressive, in my opinion, and I think there are a number of good initiatives underway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Question 107-15(4): Planning For Samuel Hearne Students' Needs

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my statement, I talked about the students' perspective and the whole thing going on with Samuel Hearne. One of the comments the students made was they were wondering if there was a backup plan or why there was no backup plan. So my question today is for the Minister of Education, Mr. Dent. I would like to ask Mr. Dent if there are backup plans in each community in case something happens to the school. If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 107-15(4): Planning For Samuel Hearne Students' Needs

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in fact there haven't been formal backup plans for a school that burned down or ceased to be available to us for each community. We have relied on the local communities to respond, depending on what the situation is. For instance, often a problem with a school might be limited to a small section, so you may need to replace a classroom or two. It's not often that a whole school is in need of replacement.

Having gone through the situation in Inuvik now a few times unexpectedly, we are going to work with our colleagues at the DEC's to ensure that some thought is given to having backup plans in all communities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 107-15(4): Planning For Samuel Hearne Students' Needs

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Minister for that. So the Minister is saying that he is

working with the DEC's and he has instructed his department to come up with backup plans in each community. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 107-15(4): Planning For Samuel Hearne Students' Needs

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will be working with our colleagues at the DEC's to make sure that there is some thought given to what would happen in the event that a school was not available, and so that there would be some form of backup planning in all communities.

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

Question 108-15(4): Addressing Deficiencies At Samuel Hearne School

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to follow up with my colleague Mr. McLeod's statement yesterday regarding Samuel Hearne Secondary School. I'm speaking particularly about the collapse and repair of the foyer and the repairs that are going on right now on the pilings. Can the Minister of Public Works indicate to this side of the House whether there are any further deficiencies identified at Samuel Hearne Secondary School? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 108-15(4): Addressing Deficiencies At Samuel Hearne School

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been doing the work necessary to bring this facility back online. We've had a structural engineer look at it. We have a plan together to repair the issues that have caused it to close this year. The concern was about lateral bracing. Because the foundation was in such poor shape, there was concern it would not withstand an earthquake event that may happen. Inuvik is considered to be in an active area or active zone for earthquakes, so that was one of the main considerations taken. The work has been ongoing and is almost complete in that section. One of the other areas we're working on is also repairing some of the piles underneath the facility this year, and further repairs to the piling program will be done next summer. The other area is some of the structural issues around the gymnasium, and those are being looked at, and we feel that that work can be done again to meet the timelines we've set to have the school back in operation prior to the school returning after the Christmas break.

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

Supplementary To Question 108-15(4): Addressing Deficiencies At Samuel Hearne School

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick follow-up in that regard. With all of the repairs being conducted at Samuel Hearne right now, will that answer some of the promise for the next few years down the road

for Samuel Hearne, or is the plan still to look forward to building a new high school in Inuvik? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 108-15(4): Addressing Deficiencies At Samuel Hearne School

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the work that is ongoing now at the facility will give it a further increased lifespan. As was laid out previously, we had a five-year agreement in place that would require inspection of the foundation on an annual basis. With this work going ahead and replacing many of the pilings themselves, we should be able to get a clean bill of health for hopefully a minimum of five years as the plans are going ahead for replacement of that facility.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 109-15(4): Linking Energy Management Targets To Deputy Minister Performance

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll refer to my concerns I raised yesterday and even a year ago in this House. It's about this government and its management in achieving the energy targets that I've spoken about so passionately. With respect to the DMs and their overall performance and management of their departments in this new energy crisis that grips us all, will the Premier look at developing and attaching targets and criteria that will link the management bonuses that each department receives to how they deal with this energy crisis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my question is to the Premier of this House.

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

Return To Question 109-15(4): Linking Energy Management Targets To Deputy Minister Performance

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Member for the question. I was beginning to feel like the Maytag repairman.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Aw.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, our deputy ministers' performances are measured each year. It's measured against the objectives that the government sets. I enter into a management letter with them. Energy conservation is certainly one of our goals as a government and, yes, deputy ministers' performances will be based on that as one of the goals they'll be measured against. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 109-15(4): Linking Energy Management Targets To Deputy Minister Performance

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Premier, also known as the Maytag repairman, be willing to make these requirements and management criteria

available to all Members of this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 109-15(4): Linking Energy Management Targets To Deputy Minister Performance

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, no, I don't want to make those available or those public. Those are between the deputy ministers, the Ministers and myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 109-15(4): Linking Energy Management Targets To Deputy Minister Performance

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I can appreciate the importance and the sensitivity of individual contracts, but the general broad brush scope of what a DM's criteria of why they get their bonuses should be part of the management of this overall House. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask once again, would the Premier be willing to show us the type of targets and defining guidelines he's going to have, to ensure that we have strong management and feel comfort with the crisis that we're in, that we're being led by good leaders in each department? Would he make those available to Members? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 109-15(4): Linking Energy Management Targets To Deputy Minister Performance

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, when we set out as the 15th Legislative Assembly, we set a number of strategic goals. The deputy ministers and Ministers, and all of us in fact, are measured against those goals that we set. We all know what they are. In terms of the specific goals, the specific criteria with each deputy minister, a lot of that is personal, and I think it's something that we have to keep between the deputy ministers, Ministers and ourselves. We all have the broad goals in our strategic plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 109-15(4): Linking Energy Management Targets To Deputy Minister Performance

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the goals are important factors to judge against, but unfortunately those goals were measured two years ago when oil was at 30-some dollars a barrel. It was \$64 a barrel yesterday. So recognizing times have changed and contracts need to be adjusted to reflect those things, it's important. I take this as a serious enough issue that we should be involved in what are some of the criteria that these DMs are being judged against so they get their bonuses, because I'd like to see this government reward good behaviour and not reward less good behaviour. So I would like to know what some of the requirements are. I think everyone would feel good. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 109-15(4): Linking Energy Management Targets To Deputy Minister Performance

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the Members that all of the deputy ministers will be measured on a number of goals that we set. They are different in different cases, but I can assure Members that all of them will be measured on what they do in helping us to achieve our targets on energy conservation measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 110-15(4): Retiring Employees Policy

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll pick up where my questions left off. The questions again are for the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board. I didn't hear an exact answer when I asked the question about whether or not FMBS had a policy regarding retiring employees. If they do have a policy, can I please see it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Two questions there. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 110-15(4): Retiring Employees Policy

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our relationship with our employees clearly set out their requirements in the employee handbook that we have in place with employees. As for an actual policy how we deal with those that are retiring from the government, again much of that comes out of the actual union agreements we have in place, years of service and so on. I'll have to go back to the department to see if we have a specific policy in place for dealing specifically with retirements. I don't believe we do have. We operate with the union agreements we have in place in how we deal with our employees. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 110-15(4): Retiring Employees Policy

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see the Minister ask the department that question specifically, because I'd hate to see other employees have to go through the same thing that these two constituents of mine had to recently go through. I wanted to ask the Minister as well, is it common practice for pay and benefit officers to go to meetings with predated and pre-signed forms for employees to fill out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 110-15(4): Retiring Employees Policy

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll have to check into that as well. If there was agreement on certain timelines between the employee and the department they were resigning from or retiring from, that would all be case by case I would believe, but I

will check into that to see if that is normal practice. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 110-15(4): Retiring Employees Policy

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that these individuals are owed severance money, they're owed pension money and, Mr. Speaker, I believe they are owed an apology. I'd like the Minister to let me know when they will be given an apology for the appalling treatment that they have been given at the hands of FMBS. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

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

Further Return To Question 110-15(4): Retiring Employees Policy

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll do that right now. I'll apologize for the department in dealing with employees. We have timelines, we set our goals high to try to meet those timelines and, unfortunately, because of the work we've done around the corporate human resource service centres and pulling the staff together, some of the files have had to sit a little bit until we've had the staff in their new positions to deal with that. As well, as I was saying, because of this and pulling everybody in under one roof, it's become much clearer now that there have been many files that have been sitting in places that they shouldn't have been and actually should have been done. So at this point I'll apologize to our employees that we haven't been able to meet our timelines, and that in fact we are aiming to improve on that and make sure that they are treated in a manner that is responsive and reflective of the environment we work in. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Good answer.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 111-15(4): Funding For Ambulance Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services in follow up to the questions that I posed to the Minister of Transportation and MACA yesterday with regard to the ambulance service that is provided by the volunteer fire department located in Hay River. As I stated yesterday, the volunteer fire department provides an ambulance service, which takes some vehicles -- as I stated yesterday, one is 10 years old, I think one is 19 years old -- out on the highway and services quite a wide radius of the road system in the South Slave area. So I would like to follow up on the response that I heard regarding how some ambulance services are funded by fee-for-service, some are funded by contract. I think the communities identified were Rae, Fort Simpson, Inuvik and Hay River. So I'd like to ask the Minister, the \$25,000 that Hay River gets for the ambulance service that they provide -- which I said yesterday doesn't even cover the

cost of maintaining the ambulances -- how does that compare to the amount of money whether by contract or fee-for-service that is paid to other communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 111-15(4): Funding For Ambulance Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's \$25,000 more than the community of Fort Smith gets, but less than other communities. But the Member's point is a good one, that this is an area where there is policy clarification that's required. Transportation, Municipal and Community Affairs and Health and Social Services identified this some time ago now, and we intend to be able to bring forward a document in the next few weeks that's going to lay out some options in terms of rationalizing and bringing some clarity to the whole issue of services both for ambulance services response on highways, and the more routine issue of the medical transportation in communities. It is a complicated issue, and it's one where there's been no clear home or ownership, and we've recognized that and we've taken the steps to try to rectify that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Chair will recognize the time for oral questions has expired. However, I will allow Mrs. Groenewegen to continue her supplementary questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 111-15(4): Funding For Ambulance Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister as well, the volunteers who provide this service out of Hay River take their training and their job of going and responding to motor vehicle accidents on the highway and providing ambulance services very, very seriously. It's all volunteer; they train and they get some funding for training, but what the Town is concerned about and what I'm concerned about is they do this in good faith on a volunteer basis, but what about the liability aspect of it? If we don't know whose responsibility it is, then how do we know who is liable if half way to a serious accident the ambulance breaks down? I mean this is a day and age of litigation and issues around liability. Who is liable? By the Town volunteering to do this, is the municipality putting themselves in a position of being liable, or who is liable? Thank you.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 111-15(4): Funding For Ambulance Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we take this issue out of the murky shadows where it's been lurking all these years unaddressed, those are some of the issues that are clearly on the table to be addressed; the issue of liability, of training, of standards, of access to adequate resources, the relationship between municipalities, Municipal and

Community Affairs, Health and Social Services, and we intend, as I indicated, to be able to bring forward a document that we will be able to make sense out of that. Out of chaos will come order, as it were, and that's the plan in the next few weeks, as I've indicated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Short supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 111-15(4): Funding For Ambulance Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that. I don't think it can happen too soon. In the list of people that he recited who are going to be consulted on this, obviously absent were the people who are involved in providing the service themselves, even the volunteers or the paid contracted ambulance services. I would like to know, will they be included in the consultation in setting up this new and organized system? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 111-15(4): Funding For Ambulance Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in part of the work that has already been done, there has been consultation with communities and service providers, I understand, to get their feedback on the service and how it could best be delivered. But as we proceed towards finalizing any recommendations, we'll ensure that we have proper consultation both with Members of this House, communities and service providers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen. Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I would like to commend the Members on both sides of the House for cooperating and observing the rules around question period today.

---Applause

Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Before I go on to the next item on the orders of the day, I would like to ask the Deputy Speaker to take over the chair to give a ruling on a point of order. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Speaker's Ruling

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs. Jane Groenewegen): Members, I will now provide my ruling on a point of order raised by Mr. Roland on Thursday, June 2, 2005.

During Members' statements, the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland, rose on a point of order claiming that the Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay, in his Member's statement earlier that day had, and I quote from page 411 of unedited Hansard: "made allegations against me saying I circumvented the rules. Under 23(h) of our rules, I believe that is an infraction."

In reviewing Mr. Ramsay's statement as contained in the unedited Hansard, I note that the Member for Kam Lake made the following assertions, and I quote from page 407: "The Minister of Finance is taking a very literal interpretation of the Financial Administration Act and the relevant Financial Administration Manual directives in relation to the government's duty to consult with the affected committee and the MLAs. I strongly believe, Madam Speaker, that while the Minister and his officials may have upheld the letter of the law by consulting with Members in committee, through the introduction of a supplementary appropriation, they have nonetheless violated the spirit or intent of their requirement to consult in a timely manner."

The Member for Kam Lake closed his statement with the following remark, and I quote from page 408 of the unedited Hansard: "I object to this government using supplementary appropriations to circumvent the review and oversight function that the committees provide..."

In allowing debate on the point, the Chair heard from both Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Roland. In essence, Mr. Ramsay stood by his comments, and I quote from page 411 of the unedited Hansard: "In saying 'circumvent,' in my opinion the government did circumvent the rules that were in place in FAM directive 302. I stand by my comments that they did circumvent those rules."

The honourable Member for Boot Lake, Mr. Roland, in speaking to the Point of Order said, and I again quote from unedited Hansard, page 412: "...again he has clearly stated not just now about the Finance Minister but Cabinet has circumvented the rules."

Colleagues, what is now before the Chair is not whether the rules respecting the Financial Administration Manual and requirements to consult with Members were circumvented, but whether or not in charging that the Minister and the government had done so, the Member for Kam Lake has contravened the rules and practices of this House.

Firstly, I would like to note that in reviewing the foregoing passages from unedited Hansard, I find that Mr. Ramsay initially alleged that the government circumvented the committee's review and oversight function and nothing more specific than that. Additionally, the brief debate the Chair allowed on the point served to cloud the issue rather than clarify it in that a specific reference to Financial Administration Manual directive 302 was made by the honourable Member for Kam Lake in further alleging that further rules were circumvented.

However, your Chair's concern is whether the rules and practices of the House were infringed upon, and I will enlist services of our parliamentary authorities to assist in this determination. Firstly, it might seem to the casual observer that on the service and within a strict interpretation of our Rule 23(h) that no Member shall make allegations against another, but Mr. Ramsay's comments might constitute an allegation in contravention to the rule. However, as your Chair attempts to balance daily the right of Members to open an unfettered debate and exchanges that promote good government and accountability, strict interpretations are often recognized as impractical.

Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, Sixth Edition, tells us in citation 486 on page 143 that: "It is

impossible to lay down any specific rules in regard to injurious reflections uttered in debate against particular Members or to declare beforehand what expressions are or are not contrary to order. Much depends on the tone, manner and intention of the person to whom the words are addressed or whether the words are meant to be applied to public conduct or private character and sometimes upon the degree of provocation which the Member speaking had received from the person alluded to. All these considerations must be attended to at the moment as they are infinitely various and cannot possibly be foreseen in such a manner that precise rules can be adopted with respect to them."

Using this passage as a guideline, the Chair finds it difficult to conclude that Mr. Ramsay's original comments constitute a contravention of our rules. While the Member for Kam Lake and the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake clearly disagree, your Chair can find nothing offensive in Mr. Ramsay's remarks that would go beyond a criticism of government and constitute a Point of Order.

To further illustrate, I refer to Marleau and Montpetit on page 526 where the authors tell us that the Speaker takes into account a number of factors, but "most importantly whether or not the remarks created disorder in the Chamber."

Clearly, at the time, disorder did not result from Mr. Ramsay's comment; and for this reason and others iterated above, I must rule that there is no Point of Order. However, I will take this opportunity to remind all Members that in the House there is often a very fine line between what does or does not offend our rules and practices. I would caution you all of being mindful of your duty to treat each other with dignity and respect, especially when issues are emotionally charged and opinions differ. Knowing these two Members as well as I do, I have no doubt that they will continue to set a very positive example for all of us in this regard. Thank you, Members, for your attention.

Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005; Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; and, Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement, with Mr. Ramsay in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, committee. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at this time committee would like to consider Bill 6 and Bill 10 in that order. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. We will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Welcome back, everybody. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We are looking at Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act,

2005. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if he would like to introduce the bill. Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005, is to amend various statutes of the Northwest Territories for which minor changes are proposed or errors or inconsistencies have been identified.

Each amendment included in the bill had to meet the following criteria:

- a) it must not be controversial;
- b) it must not involve the spending of public funds;
- c) it must not prejudicially affect the rights of persons;
- d) it must not create a new offence or subject a new class of persons to an existing offence.

Departments responsible for the various statutes being amended have reviewed and approved the changes.

Most amendments proposed in Bill 6 are minor in nature, and many consist of technical corrections to a statute. Other changes have the effect of repealing certain statutory provisions that have expired or have otherwise ceased to have effect. The amendments are of such a nature that the preparation and legislative consideration of individual bills to correct each statute would be time consuming for the government and the Legislative Assembly.

We will be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will now ask Mr. Hawkins for the committee comments on the bill. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight met on October 11, 2005, to review Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005. This act makes minor amendments to a number of statutes. Following a clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 6 as ready for Committee of the Whole. This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 6. Individual Members may have questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses today.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Bell. I would like to open the floor for general comments on the bill by Members. No comments. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clause 7 talks about an amendment to the Liquor Act. The essential intent of this is basically a clarification, as I understand it, to amend the act and clarify the board's authority to make regulations respecting the days and hours of operation of a licensed establishment. I wonder if the Minister could give us a bit of background why this clarification was required, and what issue or kind of concern may have come forward that caused this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could just get the Member to restate the question. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: No problem. To clause 7, which specifies that the Liquor Board may make regulations prescribing the hours and days of a licensed premises, I would like to ask what kind of circumstance or condition gave rise to the requirement to amend or adjust the board's authority here.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is this is the current practice anyway. We are just making it official with this amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Bell. Anything further, Mr. Braden?

MR. BRADEN: As an aside to it, I am not particularly attached to the amendment before us, Mr. Chairman, but does the board's authority here -- and this seems quite appropriate, by the way -- require or demand any kind of community consultation when it goes about prescribing days and hours? Thank you.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that when there are changes to the days and hours, they hold community hearings in order to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That satisfies my curiosity here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, gentlemen. We will go now to clause by clause. Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005, Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupations Certification Act, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Business Corporations Act, clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Cooperative Associations Act, clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Education Act, clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Evidence Act, clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Legal Services Act, clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Liquor Act, clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mechanics Lien Act, clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Pawnbrokers and Second-Hand Dealers Act, clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Public Service Act, clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Wildlife Act, clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Agreed. Does the committee agree that Bill 6 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Bill 6 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, committee. As agreed, we will proceed now to Bill 10. That is An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. I will go to Minister Roland for opening comments. Minister Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. This bill addresses a number of changes to the NWT Income Tax Act to ensure it remains consistent with the federal Income Tax Act.

The Tax Collection Agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Canada provides that we will keep the NWT act consistent with the federal act. Where different provisions exist, the Canada Revenue Agency could charge our government for the cost of administering those different provisions. There is no cost to the NWT for the Canada Revenue Agency to administer those parts of the NWT Income Tax Act that remain consistent with the federal act.

The changes that are being proposed in Bill 10 will have little or no effect on tax paid by NWT residents, but will make it easier for the Canada Revenue Agency to administer the act on our behalf.

The proposed legislation will clarify the foreign tax credit so that taxpayers will have to claim the full available federal tax credit before getting the NWT credit. Tax credits will also have to be calculated separately for each foreign country, and a minor change is being proposed to bring the foreign tax credit in line with the move several years ago to an NWT tax based on income and not on the federal tax.

Changes are being proposed to sections dealing with the tax on mutual fund corporations to correct an error in the current legislation.

The amount of education and tuition credit that can be transferred to an NWT parent or spouse by a student outside the NWT will be limited to the same amount that a student in the NWT can transfer. Under the existing legislation, there may be situations where a student outside the NWT could transfer more.

Several subsections which were necessary in 1999 because of division are proposed to be repealed as they are no longer necessary.

It is proposed to change the definition of income for the NWT child benefit to include income of common-law spouses. This will bring the definition in line with the treatment under the federal act.

The amendment would change the name of federal legislation referenced in the NWT act from the Unemployment Insurance Act (Canada) to the Employment Insurance Act (Canada) because the federal government changed the name of this legislation several years ago.

Similarly, it is proposed to amend the act to reflect the change in the name of the federal legislation from the Immigration Act (Canada) to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) and to include persons previously determined to be members of a class defined in the humanitarian designated class's regulations under the Immigration Act (Canada).

Section 7 dealing with income averaging for farmers and fishermen would be repealed to reflect the repeal of mirroring provisions in the federal act. Few, if any, of the small numbers of farmers and fishermen in the NWT were able to take advantage of this provision, and the section has not been in force nationally for a number of years since the federal provisions have been repealed.

Finally, parts (c) and (d) of the French translation of section 3.1 defining a qualified dependant for the child benefit will be amended to correct the inclusion of two parts numbered (c) in the act.

At the appropriate time, I will be proposing an amendment to the bill in order to correct a minor drafting error.

That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Roland. I would now like to ask Mr. Hawkins for the standing committee's comments on the bill. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight met on October 11, 2005, to review Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 10 to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 10. Individual committee members may have questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I would now like to ask Minister Roland if he has witnesses that he would like to introduce.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes, I would like to have my witnesses present.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister Roland. Please proceed to bring in the witnesses. Does the committee agree that we bring in the witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, committee. Thank you, Minister Roland. For the record, could you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me here, I have Mr. Aitken from the Department of Justice and to my right I have the deputy minister of Finance, Ms. Margaret Melhorn, and from Finance, as well, is Mr. John Monroe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does committee agree that we go to general comments on Bill 10?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Okay, general comments on Bill 10. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask for some explanation or some clarification on the comment the Minister made in his opening comments in making reference to section 7 dealing with the income averaging for farmers and fisherman. He made reference to those two occupations of workers. The trappers are left out. They are not mentioned in here, which is something that I don't quite understand. I would ask the Minister for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this section is dealing with special provisions that were in the federal legislation that we had mirrored. Federal legislation has removed that section and now we are just following up and removing that from ours. There were never any special provisions for trappers under the federal Income Tax Act. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I guess that begs the next question, Mr. Chairman. In the future is there any potential or is this something that we don't want to discuss right now in terms of including trappers because it is federal legislation? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, again the amendments that we are proposing here would bring us in line with the federal tax act. There is no plan from our part to bring forward any other special provisions that would create any differences between our act and the federal act. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: The point here, Mr. Chairman, and I understand the coming in line with the federal provisions of this act, and that is where the Northwest Territories seems to be somewhat unique in always following the top dog in terms of this type of legislation. That is where the North needs to stand on its own to have this type of discussion with the legislation as is being talked about today. I am going to leave it at that, with just a comment to the Minister, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I stated in my opening comments with our act, if there are sections that are not mirrored or tied to the federal act, we would have to pay Canada Revenue Agency for dealing with those differences. That is why we are falling in line; and that would be the same with every other jurisdiction. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any other general comments on Bill 10? Okay. Does committee agree to clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, 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): Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an amendment to make on the bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Please proceed, Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 2-15(4) To Amend Clause 5 Of Bill 10, Carried

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill 10 be amended by adding the following after clause 5:

5.1 Paragraph 3.3(5)(a) is amended by striking out "breakdown of their marriage" and by substituting "breakdown of their marriage or common-law partnership". Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Back to Bill 10, clause 5, as amended.

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): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Does the committee agree that Bill 10 is ready for third reading, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Bill 10 is now ready for third reading, as amended. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, witnesses.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Braden.

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

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

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Can I get the report of Committee of the Whole? Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005, and Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, and would like to report progress, with one motion being adopted, and that Bill 6 is ready for third reading and that Bill 10 is ready for third reading, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Is there a seconder to the motion? The honourable Member for

Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Friday, October 14, 2005, at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
 - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act
 - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act
 - Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
 - Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act
 - Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act,
2005

- Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, October 14, 2005, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 16:26.

