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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Box 1320
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784
<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, October 18, 2005****Members Present**

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, 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, Members. Welcome back to the House. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 40-15(4): National Students Against Impaired Driving Day**

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is National Students Against Impaired Driving Day.

---Applause

In over 600 high schools across Canada, including the NWT, students are actively engaged in spreading a message that calls for a healthy and responsible outlook towards this serious social issue. Regrettably, impaired driving continues to be a serious and chronic problem in the Northwest Territories and in other parts of Canada. Despite years of intensive public education, more severe penalties and increased law enforcement, the offence of impaired driving remains the most common crime in the country.

This behaviour continues to cause an inexcusable amount of human suffering and costs individuals and societies a staggering amount of money. On average, 21 people are killed, and hundreds more are injured, every week in this country due to the senseless and thoughtless actions of impaired drivers.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, progress has been made in recent years to reduce the incidence of impaired driving in Canada. However, there is still a long road ahead before the day arrives when this problem can be eliminated.

This government acted on its responsibility to contribute to a solution for this problem when it implemented amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act last year. These amendments have greatly increased penalties for offenders and introduced other measures that address this important issue. In August of this year, as part of its broad strategy to reduce impaired driving, the Department of Transportation brought in a Graduated Drivers Licensing Program that gives new drivers more time to gain the skills, knowledge and experience needed to safely take their place on our streets and highways.

It's encouraging to see that many young people have embraced the view that drinking and driving is not acceptable, and are actively involved in promoting that view to their peers and others.

These young people are taking part in activities that are organized each year at this time to observe this special day. This highly commendable event serves to focus attention, especially among teens and young drivers, on the serious consequences of getting behind the wheel of a car after consuming alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, here in Yellowknife, members of the St. Patrick's High School chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving organized a number of special events to mark this day. This SADD chapter, which has now been operating for over 10 years, has been a strong voice for responsible behaviour, and for measures to step up the fight against impaired driving.

I know Members of this House will join me in applauding the attitude and actions of these young adults. They have made a real difference already and will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Before we go on, I would like to tell the Members that the two languages of the House today are Tlicho and French. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

Minister's Statement 41-15(4): Minister Absent From The House

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Charles Dent will be absent from the House today, tomorrow and Thursday, to attend a federal/provincial/territorial Ministers of Social Development meeting in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On Concerns With The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation**

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about concerns I have with the NWT Housing Corporation. It has recently occurred to me that there are so many unresolved questions and issues about the functioning of this corporation/department, that we need to turn some serious attention to its operations. Today, I will just provide a broad overview of the issues, as I see them. I don't have a lot of detail to offer today, but I have research

looking into specific questions for me, and I will also have questions for the Minister at some point in this House.

We vote approximately \$30 million per year for the operations of the NWT Housing Corporation. Do these dollars actually go to address what we constantly refer to as the critical shortage of suitable housing in the North, or do they go to a myriad of other activities, most of which, I maintain, are questionable at best and abysmal failures at worst?

How much of our financial resources that we commit to the NWT Housing Corporation go to a bloated, overstuffed headquarters? Why do we need so many people in headquarters? Why doesn't the number of positions in headquarters go down when the corporation decides to contract functions out? How many initiatives are undertaken by the Housing Corporation without proper budgets associated with them? For example, the Novel project. Were there funds budgeted for travel, consultation, consultants, so that the committee with the responsibility of the Housing Corporation could have input, or is this initiative forging ahead on an ad hoc basis?

We hear that the mandate of the Housing Corporation is changing. What is it changing to? Who is setting the priorities and direction for these changes? What about the housing policies and the rent scale? Why have we never been able to address the hardship that is caused when there are overcrowded housing situations in communities, and employed family members can't live in a public housing unit with a client without their rent changing to the point of making it impossible for the tenant to pay their rent even on a temporary basis? Yet, we can have people performing illegal activities at a housing unit selling drugs and bootlegging alcohol for which there is no declared income. We are paying their rent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hey!

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: We haven't been able to even partially close the gap of free rent for elders over 60 in public housing, and there is virtually no support for seniors living in their own homes trying to maintain independence and make ends meet.

Why are we spending millions of dollars on seniors' complexes like the one we toured in Tuktoyaktuk that is heated and lit 24 hours a day, seven days a week, costs thousands of dollars to keep the lights on, and no one has ever lived in it? Unless they reprofile the facilities, the same could be said of Fort Resolution and Deline. Mr. Speaker, could I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, please?

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. Thank you, colleagues. I want to know how the capital money and operating costs of these facilities was spent, and so completely missed the needs of the community. How much did the marketing housing initiative cost? How many units are empty, and how many is the Housing Corporation subsidizing the cost of because they failed to have an accurate business plan or market analysis plan formed before jumping in with both feet?

When was the last time the Housing Corporation performed an analysis of their rent supplement units that were built in communities at 20-year sweetheart deals where the rents are grossly over-inflated? Why is the Housing Corporation always embroiled in controversy over their procurement tactics, making deals, putting out RFPs or tenders, only to turn around and do something completely contrary? Why is the Housing Corporation involved in things like product development and software development, which is far outside of their mandate? If we have a critical housing shortage in the North, how about getting back to the issues at hand: to finance meeting the mandate of the Housing Corporation to provide suitable housing? I have a long list of places where they can start looking for that money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Yellowknife Foster Family Association Public Awareness Campaign

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak today in support of a public awareness campaign that will be launched at noon in the Great Hall tomorrow by the Yellowknife Foster Family Association. Mr. Speaker, as much as it is our fervent desire that every child have a safe and healthy home, sadly this is not the reality in our society, especially so in the North. When there is a child in need of alternative care, often we rely on foster families to step in and fill the need. In an effort to raise awareness and encourage caring individuals to become foster parents, and to encourage leaders to work within their communities to provide support to families in need, Yellowknife Foster Families Association is launching a Foster Doll Awareness Campaign. As long as we need foster families, it is in the best interest of the children that they are placed as close to their own communities as possible. In order to make that possible, we need foster families in as many communities as possible, Mr. Speaker.

Starting tomorrow, until November 2nd, I will be joining a number of other individuals and leaders representing various sectors of our communities, who will each look after a foster doll with widely differing cultural, language and social backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that my foster doll is a 12-year-old girl named Pat, who is originally from Tuktoyaktuk. She has been in care for four years, and she suffers from FAS effect. She is very shy and polite, but has high energy and is missing her mother very much.

Mr. Speaker, part of my duty in being involved with this project is to take her around to places that I go to. That means that although I cannot bring her to this chamber, she will be going to a lot of meetings with me, including the FASD conference being held this weekend. I will also be writing mini journals to keep a record of her travels and experiences.

In doing so, Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that people will see, and become more aware, of the need to honour the needs of our children in care. I will be able to show my appreciation to the foster parents in our communities who, like my colleague from Hay River South, Mrs.

Groenewegen, who was once a foster parent, opened their homes and hearts to take care of children who really need not only a safe home, but love of a family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Members' Statement On Decline Of Caribou Populations

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to discuss an important issue that is of concern to my constituents and the residents of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the recent decline of the caribou. The decline in the number of caribou, in particular the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose east herds. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources conducted a photo census survey in July 2005. The numbers, to date, for Cape Bathurst are 10,013 to 2,362 from 2000 to 2005; Bluenose West, 74,273 to 20,801; and the Bluenose East, from 104,000 to 66,584 from 2000 to 2005, respectively.

...(inaudible)...and the Gwich'in and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources held a joint meeting in Whitehorse recently, where ENR provided a slide presentation on the recent 2005 caribou photo census survey.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the start of this session, Mr. McLeod, MLA for Inuvik Twin Lakes, and I were briefed by the Department of ENR in Inuvik on the slide presentation, which was the presentation they intended to take to the communities in the Beaufort-Delta.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Inuvialuit Game Council, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Management Board, and the Department of ENR traveled to Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk to discuss this 2005 survey.

Mr. Speaker, the decline of the caribou numbers is of concern to the Beaufort-Delta and, as well, the rest of the Northwest Territories. I have spoken to an elder, and one item of interest is probably migration changes, but, most importantly, may be the survey process; for example, helicopter use or fixed wing may be one of the many factors for caribou migration patterns.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this is a concern to all residents, and I compliment the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in traveling with the aboriginal claimant groups to discuss the 2005 survey. I look forward to seeing the recommendations from the consultation process, and also the next photo census survey that will be conducted in 2006 of these herds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Day Care Services For Parents Attending School

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

(Translation)...day care in Fort Smith was emphasized yesterday by my colleague from Range Lake.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I received an e-mail from one of my constituents: a single parent attending the Aurora College in Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, there are currently three of my constituents who are attending school in Fort Smith, and they have families. I am proud to say that these students are studying to become teachers, and that they are very concerned about the closure of the day care. This is a cause for concern.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, where these students will turn for the needed childcare service, after the closure of the day care on the 28th of October. There are three students that are in school and were there to help them but, Mr. Speaker, these are parents who are new to the college system. Why must we put the burden on them as they seek advanced learning?

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment admitted in the House that the NWT needs a strategy to deal with infrastructure of more day care centres. When he talked about this strategy, he said while the solution involves community partnership, he will ensure that his department staff will be available for the communities, and to work with the community leaders on finding results. If these results are part of department's concern, why is the day care centre in Fort Smith -- one of our central communities serving our college students -- being permanently closed in 10 days?

We are here to help and serve the students in terms of the day care. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Affordable Housing In Small Communities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I was elected as the representative for the Sahtu region. In the past couple of years, the highest area of concern in my region has been affordable housing units, along with the number of houses being built in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying, "Home is where the heart is." People have a lot of concerns in regards to...

---Phone ringing

I'm certainly hoping that that wasn't for me, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

I was very surprised, Mr. Speaker, when I saw the recent housing survey results in the Sahtu region, that the Sahtu had the highest core need of all the regions, at 28 percent.

The good news, however, Mr. Speaker, is that the Housing Corporation has dropped that from 35 percent since 2000. For example, in Colville Lake, 76 percent of homes are still in core need; by far the highest in the Northwest Territories. Wrigley is next, at 50 percent in core need. One hundred percent of Colville Lake homes have problems with adequacy. There is lots of work to do in our homes in the Sahtu region. Core need in Deline is at 42 percent; 37 percent in Fort Good Hope; 36 percent in Tulita; and 9 percent in Norman Wells.

Mr. Speaker, we have a long way to go; however, there is some good news, I understand, from Housing Corporation, that we have a fully staffed up district office to help our communities, and that programs now need to be looked at that will fit the communities' needs and their various ideas in how to best bring down these numbers.

Mr. Speaker, I know there is a lot of work to be done in housing; however, in my time, I have seen the numbers decrease. There is some support in the Housing Association, so as much as I want to talk about the work that needs to be done in housing, I also want to say thank you to the Minister and his staff for bringing down these numbers in the Sahtu region. Again, I want to thank the staff there. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the important Taltson hydro expansion project this government is working to develop over the next few years. Mr. Speaker, I cannot express the important significance of this initiative enough. Not only does it affect the residents of Tu Nedhe, the people of the Northwest Territories, but also all of Canada because of the potential positive impacts to our environment if addressed with some degree of urgency by this government.

Mr. Speaker, currently there are three mines -- Diavik, BHP and De Beers --operating in the Tu Nedhe area. All are using fossil fuels to operate in our delicate northern environment, with a possibility of three more mines, the Gahcho Kue, the Jericho, and the Dry Bones coming on stream within the next five years. These mines will also be operating on fossil fuels unless we, as a government, place more stringent demands on industry to incorporate the policy and hydro initiatives into their long-term plans.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that the environmental benefits to be derived from this hydro development surely outweigh the cost to be incurred by industry should they be required to hook up to the hydro line. This gap will continue to grow, given the rising costs of energy; in particular, fossil fuels.

Mr. Speaker, these industries alone are taking \$1 million each day from each mine, with approximately \$3 million a day from the Northwest Territories, leaving northerners with some crumbs, a few rough diamonds, and a lot of low level jobs and tons of greenhouse gas emissions; emissions that will be directly attributable to the extinction

of one of our true northern icons, the polar bear, in less than 50 years if we let this practice continue.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress to this government that we can no longer sit back and be driven by industrial practices which seem to dictate what directions we, as a government, should take. We have to be more aggressive in finding agreeable solutions that will keep the NWT at the helm when developing environmentally sound and respectful solutions that do not lead to the demise of what this last great frontier personifies: that being, respect for the environment, respect for the wildlife, and a continued traditional northern way of life. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Childcare And Early Childhood Development

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. One of the key messages included in the pre-budget consultation report that your committee had the pleasure of introducing yesterday was about the importance of early childhood development programs. We all know that this is an upfront investment. When we make an investment in our children, it certainly pays off down the road.

A number of organizations, including the NWT Status of Women Council and Alternatives North, made note of the need for this government to continue to lobby the federal government for a fair allocation of childcare dollars to the NWT. Mr. Speaker, as the NWT Status of Women Council wrote in their submission, access to childcare is an essential factor in achieving economic equality for women, and in maximizing the potential of the NWT labour force. Early in their new term, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government announced a \$5 billion commitment for a national childcare system. It is my understanding that the federal government -- the Minister Ken Dryden -- continued to insist, though, that the Government of the NWT accept a per capita allocation of this funding. This is not acceptable.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. BRADEN: The costs of providing childcare in the North are clearly higher than in other parts of the country. The Government of the NWT has been working closely with other territories to hammer out a deal with Canada that would provide adequate base funding to make a real difference in providing this critically needed programming in the North. We have seen the federal government recognize our unique health challenges, such as with the Health Care Accord reached last fall. The Early Learning and Childcare Agreement that has been in place in this government since 2001 serves as a framework for the strengthening of licensed programs for children.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that our Minister, Charles Dent, will be in Ottawa this week to meet with his territorial and provincial counterparts, as well as Minister Dryden from Canada. I would urge Minister Dent and this government to continue to press the federal government to fund childcare programs in a manner that recognizes the higher

cost of providing these services here in the NWT. Anything else is not acceptable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Workers' Compensation Board Office Complex

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The subject I would like to speak about today is the proposed new Workers' Compensation Board office complex that is currently being entertained by the WCB. The Minister responsible has not presented any type of rationale or business case for this happening. The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development is finally going to be briefed next Wednesday, a day before this session concludes. It is only because, Mr. Speaker, we asked him for the briefing; he didn't offer it.

Mr. Speaker, I do not take issue with the WCB wanting to have its own building if it makes financial sense to do so. What I am taking issue with is how the WCB seems to be going about it. I have heard that the WCB was asking the City for Bartam Trailer Park. I know that they are also interested in the old Gerry Murphy Arena site here in the City of Yellowknife. Seeing as the City had no waterfront property, the WCB has gone out for an expression of interest to source some land. An expression of interest, Mr. Speaker, obviously has guidelines that have to be followed. It would appear that the WCB did not even follow its own criteria and guidelines when it found a very nice piece of waterfront property. The only problem with this property, Mr. Speaker, is that it does not meet the zoning requirements as specified in their own guidelines in the expression of interest. The WCB is actively robbing the City of Yellowknife to rezone this piece of land. This property is located behind the existing development in the Saan/Quizno complex. From my understanding, the WCB is looking for 80 parking stalls and a rezoning of the property so they can build this new office complex.

Mr. Speaker, I have to ask, what about downtown revitalization here in the city of Yellowknife? The WCB is looking at taking 100 jobs. That is 100 jobs out of the downtown core here in Yellowknife and moving them to an area of the city that is already plagued by traffic congestion. It just doesn't make any sense to me. I don't know why we wouldn't want to continue to maintain a central location easily accessible for injured workers. I want to know what efforts were undertaken to keep the office in the downtown core. There are options; even some that I am aware of that should have been explored. I am wondering why the WCB is bent on having a waterfront address.

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

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I am wondering why the WCB is so intent on having this waterfront address. The last time I looked, employer

premiums were increasing, and injured workers were still feeling that the process and the bureaucracy were treating them badly and poorly. How can the WCB justify the building of this waterfront castle? They even stated that they will maintain public walking trails within the vicinity of this new building, and all of this on the back of the injured worker and the employers paying ever-increasing premiums. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Premier at the appropriate time. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Investing In The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some loud rumours out there that say Imperial Oil is seriously considering pulling out of the oil and gas project. The rumour mill says that, despite the potential \$500 million that the federal government has put on the table, Imperial still contends that the demands from the access and benefit agreement negotiations are still too high. Imperial Oil has not budged an inch, and they are not prepared to offer any more to the claimant groups, from what I have heard. If something is not done soon, in my opinion, the current plans to establish a pipeline in the NWT will be in serious jeopardy, and put into a holding pattern for the next 30 years.

My concern is that this Government of the Northwest Territories has invested serious dollars into preparing for the pipeline. Almost every department has created at least one position in pipeline readiness and some of that in several positions. At last count, in the March budget, there were approximately 30 positions across the Territories devoted entirely or partially to the pipeline. This government has invested considerable people hours from the existing staff to investing heavily in the \$1 million office in Hay River. MACA has doled out over \$1 million of funding to communities to help deal with expected impacts of the pipeline, not to mention the money that has gone towards negotiations and pipeline agreements.

If this pipeline comes, Mr. Speaker, all of this money will have been considered well invested. If this pipeline does not come, this money will have gone down the drain. This government has already stated that without the pipeline, we will find ourselves in a serious financial situation.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am very concerned what will happen to the significant investment in establishing numerous positions and spending a lot of money on getting ready for a pipeline that is simply just a pipe dream. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Condition Of The Dempster Highway

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I had a good statement and some questions, but

then I just realized that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment wasn't here, so I will have to save those until Friday. I was trying to come up with a topic that I have been hearing a lot about in my time in Inuvik. One of the main complaints I had from Inuvik, and people that drive it, is the condition of the Dempster Highway.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Boo!

MR. MCLEOD: I have been hearing many complaints from people about the highway, and having the opportunity to travel that highway since 1984, this is the worst that I have ever seen it. It is worse than a goat trail. Many experienced drivers have told me that they travel this highway all the time. This is the worst they have ever seen it, because of the condition.

There have been a few accidents on the highway because of the condition of the road. I read with some interest the article that was in the paper regarding 12 kilometres left to pave on Highway No. 3. We would like to have 12 kilometres of dust control on the Dempster.

---Laughter

---Applause

We would like to have 12 kilometres without barrel-sized potholes, and 12 kilometres where we can put it on cruise control.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, with all the traffic that is going to be on this highway within the next couple of years with the pipeline -- and there is going to be pipeline -- this government has to improve the condition of the road. There is some work going on it right now, but that work, Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, is not enough. There is going to be more work that needs to be done on this highway. We have to keep these highways safe for all residents of the NWT, not just Highway No. 3. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I would caution Members from making reference to Members who are absent from the House. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine, and chairman of the WCB, Mr. Denny Rodgers. We welcome him to the Assembly. His daughter is one of our Pages today.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to introduce and recognize somebody in the gallery, my constituency assistant, Dan,

from Inuvik; Brenda Dillon; as well as also recognizing Mr. McLeod's constituency assistant, Meeka Kisoun.

---Applause

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

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of my sisters here in the gallery, Mrs. Molly Nogasak. With her is her daughter, Priscilla Nogasak. I would also like to recognize Mrs. Brenda Dillon, CA for Mr. Roland. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize someone who has already been recognized, but in doing so, I may have to let out a personal secret, or whatever.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh!

MS. LEE: In 1978, when I came to Canada and spoke no English whatsoever, my first best friend who taught me English was from Newfoundland, and her name was Rhonda Rodgers. Denny Rodgers is Rhonda Rodgers' little brother who was in grade school. Now he is here as a chair of WCB, and his daughter here is paging. That really makes you think about how life runs its course as it should. It is a great pleasure for me to recognize Mr. Rogers in the gallery. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we have missed anybody in the gallery today, welcome to the gallery. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. It is always nice to have an audience here. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 142-15(4): Status Of Long-Term Care Facility In Deline

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I talked about the housing situation in the Sahtu. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services on the facility in Deline. There is an elders' long-term care facility that is not being utilized, as Mrs. Groenewegen has indicated in her statement, to the fullest extent. This situation has gone on for a number of years. My constituents are asking for a resolution. Can the Minister of Health and Social Services inform this Assembly of the current status of the long-term care facility in Deline, and of any plans the department has for maximizing its utilization? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 142-15(4): Status Of Long-Term Care Facility In Deline

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a working group comprised of officials from the department and from the Sahtu region, as well as a community member from Deline, looking at the best use for this facility. Initially, there was a thought and suggestion that we should be looking at a long-term care facility. What has come out of the work that has been done there are a number of things. Firstly, in order to get a better assessment of the level of need among the elders, they did a thorough review in the region of every elder and their acuity level, which came back with information that indicated the first priority was an increase of home care, which we are working with the Sahtu board to deliver.

Regarding the Deline facility itself, for the most part, 10 of the units are currently in use as independent living units. The suggestion now is that we look at converting the remaining six, and modify them to four independent living units. If that is not going to be a feasible option, there is a possibility of using that section of the facility that is currently underutilized as a place to be able to locate or co-locate a number of services and programs that are already currently in Deline. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 142-15(4): Status Of Long-Term Care Facility In Deline

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's response. People in the Sahtu and people in Deline will be happy in terms of the potential use of that facility in Deline. In terms of timetables and time frames, when can the people in Deline expect some movement or some shift in the use of this six-unit facility, should the community and the department prove to go ahead with utilizing that facility? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 142-15(4): Status Of Long-Term Care Facility In Deline

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that we are just waiting for some final confirmation from the community member that was on the committee, at which point we would be able to build the next steps into the planning processes. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 142-15(4): Status Of Long-Term Care Facility In Deline

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the final confirmation from the community of Deline and the departments that are associated in utilizing this facility he says build into a planning process...What is the planning process? Is it one year, two years, four years? What is the planning process? Can people in Deline actually see some tangible things happening around that facility in

terms of seeing it being operated in that fashion? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 142-15(4): Status Of Long-Term Care Facility In Deline

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the important first step is almost complete, which is to finally have a comprehensive plan for the facility which also includes, as I indicated, a review of the acuity levels of all of the elders in the Sahtu region. When we get the final agreement in terms of the options, then we can determine the costs. Based on that, we can see how fast we can move on that part of the six-unit piece. I know the Housing Corporation is very interested and is willing to be, and has been, a partner in this project from the start. We are going to work together to move on this as quickly as we can. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 142-15(4): Status Of Long-Term Care Facility In Deline

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for outlining the road map in terms of actually seeing something happen in this facility. Again, I want to ask the Minister, when can the people in Deline see some actual operations in those six units? Is it going to be two months? Is it going to be two years, three years? When, I guess, will this all come together so the people in Deline can actually see that facility being opened and used by the people in the Sahtu? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 142-15(4): Status Of Long-Term Care Facility In Deline

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated to the Member, once we get the final document, and we agree on the course of action in conjunction with all the stakeholders who are involved in the committee, then we will be able to determine how fast we can move on whatever course of action is determined to be the best. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 143-15(4): Day Care Services For Fort Smith Students

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker... (Translation) At this time, I'd like say I'm sorry that my phone rang, but maybe the call was from Fort Smith.

Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot of effort, patience and persistence to find the right high chair match for a child in your home community. You can well imagine, Mr. Speaker, the time and effort it would take to locate and interview, and select and pay an individual that will meet your child's and your family's needs when you are living outside of your home community. Compound this with the fact that if you are a student or a single parent, you can

well imagine, Mr. Speaker, the stress this structure might have on you. So my question, Mr. Speaker, is what is the department's immediate plan to meet these needs? Next week, I believe, is the closure of the day care. What will the Minister do about it between now and next week about the closure of the day care in Fort Smith? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I'm not sure what Minister I'll address your question to. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 143-15(4): Day Care Services For Fort Smith Students

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member may know, the day care he is speaking of is a society that is not in the direct responsibility of the government. There are some issues that it is facing, the main one being a financial one. The director of the day care, I understand, is putting together the financial records. We haven't seen them yet, so I don't know the detail on their financial status, but I understand that the day care is at risk of closing very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 143-15(4): Day Care Services For Fort Smith Students

MR. LAFFERTY: (Translation) Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that you are right, so I know that we do help the students with student financial assistance. On top of helping with the student financial assistance, the organization is under the government, but I don't want any of my students to drop out and any of my constituents who are in courses to drop out. What is the Minister willing to do about it?

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

Further Return To Question 143-15(4): Day Care Services For Fort Smith Students

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't sure what the question was, but, Mr. Speaker, the closure of the day care will create a disruption for students who have young children, preschoolers and babies. But, Mr. Speaker, we have to wait for the records, we have to know what is happening with that particular day care before any decision can be made on it. Mr. Speaker, I should say, there are a number of day homes in Fort Smith, and I'm sure the college people would be ready to help any parents who are students in trying to find a suitable day home where their preschoolers and babies can be kept in the interim until this other business is sorted out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 143-15(4): Day Care Services For Fort Smith Students

MR. LAFFERTY: (Translation) Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about the students, I'm talking on behalf of the Tlicho students, the students from the Tlicho region, the Deh Cho, Sahtu, and Yellowknife. What will the department do specifically for the students living

outside their communities, such as the students from the Akaicho, the Tlicho, the Deh Cho, the Sahtu? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 143-15(4): Day Care Services For Fort Smith Students

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, when students apply for student financial assistance, their family status and their needs are taken into consideration. So if it is a family who have preschool-aged children who need to be taken care of while the college student is at class, we take that into consideration. We do provide support, as a government, to all of the licensed day cares, and in this case, we're supporting this one Mr. Lafferty is speaking about. If it's needed for these children to be placed in day homes, then, of course, that would be taken into consideration as well. Now I would urge students at the college to talk with the college staff and get help in finding day homes in the event that this day care closes its doors soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Your final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 143-15(4): Day Care Services For Fort Smith Students

MR. LAFFERTY: (Translation) Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about the three students from the Tlicho region. I know that next week there will be no more day care. What is the Premier saying he's willing to do? Another question is, what has the department done to ensure these parents are being resourced to help with the day care services?

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

Further Return To Question 143-15(4): Day Care Services For Fort Smith Students

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, let me say, first of all, that we want the students to continue with their education. We will do whatever we can to make sure that it is possible for them to continue, and for their preschool-aged children to be properly cared for while they're at classes. Mr. Speaker, the college will help the individuals find a suitable day home. Second, Mr. Speaker, if there is a need for additional resources, then that is something the students should be talking to student financial assistance about and, again, I'm sure the college will be prepared to help them with that, as well. Most importantly, we want to see those students continue their schooling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 144-15(4): Operational Costs Of The NWT Housing Corporation

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are to the Minister of the Housing Corporation, the Honourable David Krutko. I will start, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I realize that this empire that has developed over the years of the NWT Housing

Corporation did not all occur on this Minister's watch, and he has fairly recently taken responsibility for this. However, he is now the point man for the NWT Housing Corporation, and the buck stops with him. So that's why I direct my questions to him. I would like to talk first about the cost of operating the headquarters of the NWT Housing Corporation. We know that the capital dollars and operational dollars for housing needs in the North are limited. I, obviously, am of the opinion that there are too many people. How many people are employed in the headquarters of the NWT Housing Corporation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Return To Question 144-15(4): Operational Costs Of The NWT Housing Corporation

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the headquarters and the operation of the Housing Corporation, roughly the total budget is in the range of seven percent, which is a lot lower than other departments. A majority of our expenses are spent in the communities, and we have a district staff roughly in the range of five percent of the budget. So between the district offices and the headquarters office, you're looking at just a little over 10 percent, which, compared to other departments, is very low. I think that you have to realize that almost 85 percent of our budget is expended in our communities to run the operations of providing housing in communities and elsewhere in the North. I'd just like to point that out to the Member, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 144-15(4): Operational Costs Of The NWT Housing Corporation

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seven percent in headquarters and five percent in the district offices; just doing the math, not to challenge the Minister, but that is 12 percent not 10 percent. This is a capital-intensive corporation. The money should be going to capital. There are not a lot of operations issues. Of course, might I also say I have no issue with the staff located in the districts. I'm talking about the staff in headquarters, and I'd like to know the number. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 144-15(4): Operational Costs Of The NWT Housing Corporation

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I don't have that detail here, but I'd like to offer that to the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 144-15(4): Operational Costs Of The NWT Housing Corporation

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently \$30 million of the Housing Corporation money has been transferred to ECE. Was there a

reduction in the staff numbers in headquarters as a result of that transfer? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 144-15(4): Operational Costs Of The NWT Housing Corporation

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have reduced in the area of, as we all know, the human resources section. That has now been centralized, so there has been a decline in the human resources positions of the department due to the centralization throughout government departments. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 144-15(4): Operational Costs Of The NWT Housing Corporation

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the consolidation of the human resources function is something that has happened government-wide. Every department gave up human resources people. Besides the human resources people, has there been any reduction in the staff at headquarters as a result of this transfer of money to ECE and the recent contracting out by the Housing Corporation? Thank you.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 144-15(4): Operational Costs Of The NWT Housing Corporation

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been no contracting out. All the work has been done in house with the resources we do have. Thank you.

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

Question 145-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Planning Costs

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the Premier's favourite subjects are devolution, hydro and, definitely, pipeline. So my questions that I'd like to ask today to the Premier are what actions this government will be taking, if any, to prevent Imperial Oil from backing out or postponing the Mackenzie Valley pipeline project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 145-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Planning Costs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, if Imperial were to decide not to proceed with the pipeline, there is nothing we could do. That is a board of directors of Imperial's decision, and they are not required to build a pipeline. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot that we're

doing in order to encourage the building of that pipeline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 145-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Planning Costs

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier tell us today how much money, to date, this government has spent on pipeline preparedness? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 145-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Planning Costs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you how much the government has spent in total in preparation for the pipeline, because all of our departments, almost without exception, have been involved in some way or another. We have all spent time on this issue. As well, Mr. Speaker, it would take a lot of time to pull that kind of information together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 145-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Planning Costs

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned that there's no backup plan if the pipeline doesn't go through. Can the Premier tell me what will happen to this investment if the pipeline doesn't go ahead? Will we have any long-term plan for the benefits that we've been studying or thinking about?

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

Further Return To Question 145-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Planning Costs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, diversification of our economy has long been a goal of our government. We have a very active diamond mining industry. We have a lot of exploration going on for other kinds of minerals. There are two or three pipelines coming out of the Territories right now: two coming out of the Deh Cho and one from Norman Wells. Mr. Speaker, I expect that everything isn't going to come to a stop if we don't have the pipeline. But, Mr. Speaker, it would be a sad day if we don't see the pipeline, in my view, because this one does represent a huge opportunity that would be lost, and we would see many of the people living, particularly in the smaller communities along the valley, who would be hard pressed to find employment and self-sufficiency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 145-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Planning Costs

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Referring to my Member's statement, I pointed out that there were more

than 30 positions that have mushroomed all about pipeline preparedness. So millions of dollars are being poured into this. What, if any, is the strategy for the long term with respect to these pipeline preparedness positions, keeping in mind that this pipeline may never go through? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 145-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Planning Costs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: I'm not sure where the Member is getting information that the pipeline is not going to go ahead, because all of the indications that I have are that Imperial wants to build the pipeline, that aboriginal leaders want the pipeline, our government wants the pipeline, the federal government wants the pipeline, and I believe that it is going to go ahead. Having said that, we have invested a lot of money in pipeline preparedness and training people on the anticipation that this will happen. I'm still of the view it is going to happen. But, Mr. Speaker, as I said, if it doesn't go ahead for some reason, then I think it is a sad day, because there will not be the jobs, and there will not be the revenues to our government and aboriginal governments and to people throughout the Territories that we would have if this did happen. Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize that we are working on the information that this pipeline will happen. We are in the middle of serious negotiations, and I fully expect that it is going to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 146-15(4): Consultation On Proposed WCB Office Complex

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the honourable Premier, and it goes back to my Member's statement from earlier today. I'm just wondering if the Premier knows, or can tell us, what type of consultation took place between the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board and the Minister responsible, in terms of this new office building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 146-15(4): Consultation On Proposed WCB Office Complex

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me clarify that the Housing Corporation is an entity that is a corporate...Oh, sorry. I'm sorry.

---Laughter

I apologize, Mr. Speaker. The Workers' Compensation Board is a corporate entity that is separate from government. They operate on a basis of collecting premiums and then paying out compensation for workers who are injured from that premium. The Minister responsible is the Minister responsible for the act, and he manages the overall legislative direction to the Workers' Compensation Board. The Workers' Compensation Board

would have advised the Minister of this proposed investment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also say that I congratulate the Workers' Compensation Board for taking some of its investments and considering how it can invest in the North. There was a time when the investments were largely elsewhere, and that was something that was of concern to us as a government. In terms of the detail of this consultation, the Minister has been advised that the Workers' Compensation Board has talked with the Yellowknife and Northwest Territories chambers of commerce; they have talked with the NWT Construction Association, the NWT Chambers of Mines, and the NWT Federation of Labour. I'm not sure who else, but those are the individuals they have talked to, at least, and I'm sure they've also spoken with the City. There has been a fair bit of discussion on this proposed investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it's kind of the same as when Regular Members have to deal with injured workers and we feel completely left out of the process. If the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board was advised of this type of investment taking place, I'm wondering why he didn't advise us, and we had to ask him and request from him a meeting to go over the business case for such a move. Does the government or Premier feel that it makes sense to allow the Workers' Compensation Board to build this office complex outside of the downtown business core of the city of Yellowknife; the capital city? Does it make sense to move this office and 100 workers outside of the downtown core? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I'm going to rule that question out of order. It's asking the Premier for an opinion. Do you want to rephrase your question, Mr. Ramsay, or follow-up supplementary? Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 146-15(4): Consultation On Proposed WCB Office Complex

MR. RAMSAY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll rephrase my question for the Premier. Does the Premier and the government feel that they should support the downtown capital area of this, Yellowknife, capital city of the Northwest Territories, by maintaining the Workers' Compensation Board and the 100 jobs they represent be in the downtown core? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 146-15(4): Consultation On Proposed WCB Office Complex

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has been monitoring what is happening. We have not become directly involved. Certainly, the core area of Yellowknife and its future is of concern to all the citizens of Yellowknife, the same as it would be of any residents of any other town or any other city. What's happening to the core area? What should stay in the core area, and what should possibly be moved out? There are individuals who have talked to me about it and have

expressed their concern that this is one more move toward destroying our downtown. So there are certainly people who would prefer to see it here. Mr. Speaker, I intend to speak directly with the mayor about this issue, and I recognize the planning for the city is really within the mayor and council's jurisdiction directly, not ours as a government, but we certainly have views with regard to the future of any of our urban areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 146-15(4): Consultation On Proposed WCB Office Complex

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Premier, I guess for Regular Members, what is our best course of action in trying to communicate to the Workers' Compensation Board that, as a Yellowknife MLA, I feel the 100 jobs should be downtown? I think we should pay attention to the revitalization project that's taking place downtown, and try to maintain these jobs downtown. I'm wondering if the government should write letters to the Workers' Compensation Board chairman. Should we talk to the mayor? Who is going to take up that fight on the government's side of things? Is it going to be the Minister responsible, or is it going to be the Premier? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. A couple or three questions there. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 146-15(4): Consultation On Proposed WCB Office Complex

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think any of the Legislative Assembly Members who want to take up this issue should take it up with the chairman and the board for the Workers' Compensation Board, as well as the City. It is my understanding that this land that the Workers' Compensation Board is interested in would have to be rezoned. That's an issue that the city council will have to deal with, and certainly you have every right and responsibility to speak to the mayor and council on this issue if you wish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RAMSAY: That's okay.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Question 147-15(4): Proposed Taltson River Hydroelectric Expansion Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to our honourable Premier, Joe Handley, in regards to the Taltson expansion project. I know the government has recently approved something to the tune of \$1.4 million toward the environmental and geotechnical work that the Taltson expansion project is to undergo. I just want to ask the Minister, I guess, from his last dealings with industry with respect to getting them to hook into this Taltson expansion project, what is the status

of those current negotiations today, and where does the government stand on that issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 147-15(4): Proposed Taltson River Hydroelectric Expansion Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is certainly interest in the possibility of hooking into hydro power by the existing mines, as well as the one that's under construction. There have been regular meetings going on as recently as last Friday. There was a meeting between our officials and the Power Corporation and the representatives of all three diamond mines: Ekati, Diavik, and DeBeers. They are looking at the economic viability of it. Of course, the mines will participate, both for environmental reasons as well as cost, as long as this is something that is favourable to their bottom line, as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 147-15(4): Proposed Taltson River Hydroelectric Expansion Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, just from looking at the mines' bottom line, we have a lot of room to play here. I was just wondering if the Premier could let me know, and maybe let the House know, who is on this negotiating team, and if this team has anybody representing the Akaitcho Territory and the South Slave Metis and Lutsel'k'e and Deninu Kue First Nations. Is there anybody on that negotiating team, along with the Power Corporation, to negotiate with the mines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Further Return To Question 147-15(4): Proposed Taltson River Hydroelectric Expansion Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The individuals who are doing the work on our behalf -- and at this point it is not formal negotiations, but more looking at the detail, the complexities of it, the issues, and, of course, trying to arrive at a bottom line of the viability -- is made up of a number of senior officials, including the deputy minister of ITI, the president of the Power Corporation, a representative of the Energy Corporation, which is a subsidiary of the Power Corporation, and Lew Voytilla, who is with our Financial Management Board Secretariat. Mr. Don Balsillie was also at the meeting and participating, and I'm not sure exactly his capacity and who he is representing at the meetings. Yes, there was a representative in Don Balsillie. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 147-15(4): Proposed Taltson River Hydroelectric Expansion Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my next question would be with the development of the negotiations or how they're proceeding. I know they've

been going on here for the last year or so, and there doesn't seem to be any tangible results coming out of the work that's being done. Given the rising energy costs, it would seem more attractive to the mines that they would hook up into something that would be beneficial both environmentally and on the revenue side for them. I just want to ask the Premier if he would be willing to get his team, the deputy minister and these four other individuals, to maybe take a harder stand toward industry and actually, given the government's perspective and what the government wants to do for the people, demand that the mines hook up. I don't know why there's even ongoing negotiations with that. I think it should be something that should be a given, given our...

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. I'll allow the Premier to answer that. Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 147-15(4): Proposed Taltson River Hydroelectric Expansion Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are working with the mines. We cannot require them to hook up to hydro power until we know that we have a viable project and can deliver the hydro power to them. To do that, we need to do several things. One is to complete a memorandum of intent with our aboriginal partners whose traditional lands the project will be situated on. The second is, we need to continue with further environmental and engineering studies to make sure that the project is viable in that respect. We also have to look at a lot of other economic issues. Mr. Speaker, I expect that by this spring we will have all of those pre-engineering, pre-environmental studies done and, at that point, should be able to go to the next step, which would be to go for an application for environment permitting, environmental assessment process. It is only after we get that, and have a project, that we could then require the mines to buy in. Until then, Mr. Speaker, I can tell this House that the mines are very interested in the project and are working with us on it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 147-15(4): Proposed Taltson River Hydroelectric Expansion Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear that the mines are very interested. I guess I just wanted to point out in this review of electrical generation transmission and distribution in the NWT that came out in 2000, that there are things in this report that point to a lot of economic viability options of why we should convert to electrical and hydro generation here in the NWT on all fronts. I don't know if we should do any more review on this front, because it seems to be a pretty comprehensive report that has been developed by this government.

I just want to ask the Premier, as far as finding some agreeable solutions to allow the mines to hook up or not hook up, before the environmental and geotechnical work gets done, can we work side by side to ensure that, yes, they are going to hook up and, yes, we are doing the environmental work, and we are going to spend the money on doing that, and that money is going to bring the mines into the picture? Is there any kind of commitment that we can get from the Premier on that end? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 147-15(4): Proposed Taltson River Hydroelectric Expansion Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, let me first say that the report that the Member is referring to is a broad report on the benefits of hydro power and the viability and the potential in the Northwest Territories. There is no stronger advocate of that than myself and our government. The studies I am referring to are specific to the Taltson project. We need to have lot more information there.

Mr. Speaker, as soon as we have the information that is necessary over the next few months, we intend to enter into, what we call, firm power purchase agreements with the mines. Before we do that, we have to make sure that we are not selling our future away for half its value, or that we are not entering into something that we cannot deliver on. We have to do this basic background work first, but the intention is to enter into the memorandum of intent with the aboriginal partners, then enter into firm purchase power agreements with the mines and, of course, do the environmental and engineering work, as well.

Mr. Speaker, we are working on this. It may seem as though little is happening, but there is a lot happening in the back rooms in getting this project underway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 148-15(4): Closure Of Fort Smith Day Care Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also about the impending closure of the day care in Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, I realize that the Premier is not involved in the day-to-day management of the file, but I would appreciate it if the Premier would take this question. My question is, given the fact that there are so few days left -- this day care is up for closure within a week or so, within a couple of weeks -- it appears from listening to the answers that the Premier gave to the Member for Monfwi, that there are some documents or records that the government is looking for to decide whether any kind of assistance could be given. I would like to know from the Premier if he could make a commitment to look at this prior to October 28th. Once it is closed, it is really hard to get things restarted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 148-15(4): Closure Of Fort Smith Day Care Centre

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we need to have the completed financial records in our hands to have a look at them, so we know the status of the day care before we can look at what alternatives there might be. We need that, first of all. I understand that the director is working on it, so as soon as those are available to us, we can do it. I can't guarantee -- because I am not in control of that -- when she would have that work completed, and whether it would be before this House recesses. Mr. Speaker, as

we get more information, we will look at it, and certainly look at all day cares across the Northwest Territories, but I can't give assurances that it will be October 28th. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 148-15(4): Closure Of Fort Smith Day Care Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that this issue has been going on and there have been problems expressed to the Minister, difficulties that the society has been experiencing for the last year. I don't know why it has taken until the midnight hour to figure this out.

Could I ask the Premier, if the director provides the government with the information, would the Premier work with the Minister of ECE to do all that the government can do to keep that facility open, and give them the reasonable assistance that they need to get through? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 148-15(4): Closure Of Fort Smith Day Care Centre

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I want to see the financial records first. I am sure the Minister responsible wants to see them first.

Mr. Speaker, we want to have day care spaces where they are needed, and particularly for the students. But, Mr. Speaker, I can say that that day care in Fort Smith gets all of the same per child benefits that any day care gets, plus they get free accommodation, including O and M in one of the buildings there. We are providing as much and probably more than we are for many day cares across the Northwest Territories in this situation.

Mr. Speaker, we want to be careful with what we do, that we are not providing an unfair advantage or amount of money for one day care that we are not giving to others. Mr. Speaker, this issue is immediate, it is urgent, we want to find some alternatives, but at the same time, we have to look at the support that we are providing to day cares right across the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 148-15(4): Closure Of Fort Smith Day Care Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a whole lot of details to this case specifically, but it seems to be obvious to me that it is quite complex, and there are many sides to this story, with the emphasis being put on financial records and such. I listened, with a great deal of interest, to what the Premier said in his answer to my second question, and that was that he would look at all the day care programs and see how they are running. The fact of the matter is, even per diems are not given when a child doesn't show up; for example, even if you have to light the place and water the place and such. Would the Premier look at the overall picture of how

adequate our per diem funding is to day care facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 148-15(4): Closure Of Fort Smith Day Care Centre

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Minister responsible is undertaking a review of the regulations under the Child Day Care Act right now. He is, today, on his way to a federal/territorial/provincial meeting to deal with early learning and childcare. We have been struggling with the position taken by Canada on per capita money for early childhood learning. These are all issues that affect what we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I will take this issue up with the Minister responsible for this file as soon as possible. As I say, we treat it very seriously right across the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 148-15(4): Closure Of Fort Smith Day Care Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to set aside the whole issue about getting money from the federal government. That is totally another issue, and it doesn't really matter how much money we get, it is how we fund our programs. Let me tell you, in this House, all the people that work for us, they still get paid if Members don't show up, if one of us don't show up. Why is it then okay for day care not to be paid if a child doesn't show up? That makes no sense. Overhead costs are exactly the same. I would like to ask the Premier to look at questions like that, about are we being fair in our funding to day cares. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 148-15(4): Closure Of Fort Smith Day Care Centre

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't know all the details of why young preschoolers in the day care would be eligible if they are missing a day here or there. I don't understand that. I do know we do fund day cares based on a number of preschoolers, babies who are enrolled, not on the occupancy. If we did that, we might be funding a lot of empty spaces. Mr. Speaker, I will talk with the Minister on this issue. We will get more information, and I certainly agree with the Member that this is a very serious issue and one we will look at very carefully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 149-15(4): Status Of The NWT Housing Corporation Mandate Review

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for Mr. Krutko, Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Member for Hay River South, delivered a rich inventory of issues that concern us about the

corporation and the way it manages its mandate. Over time, they will, I am sure, get attention. The area I would like to focus on is one of governance, Mr. Speaker, and the mandate under which the Housing Corporation conducts the programs and the budgets that are before us. I wanted to ask the Minister with regard to the review of the Housing Corporation's mandate, what is the status of the development of this new mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 149-15(4): Status Of The NWT Housing Corporation Mandate Review

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, We are presently in the process of redefining the mandate of the Housing Corporation. As we all know, the social housing responsibility will be devolved to Education. We are preparing a presentation for Cabinet with regard to the mandate change which will be happening later on this week. Hopefully, we will have something to take to committee by the end of the month. We are hoping to be able to move forward on that. With the mandate change, we are hoping to see how we fit into the scenario of programs and services and, more importantly, focus on property management and development. So we are hoping to have that process completed by the end of this month. It is presently ready to go to Cabinet. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 149-15(4): Status Of The NWT Housing Corporation Mandate Review

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, we've all been aware for some time now, in fact in the business plans that we looked at in the budget session earlier this year, that this review was underway. I haven't heard very much about it. Housing is one of the most essential parts of our infrastructure here in the NWT. For the Housing Corporation to undertake a fundamental review of its mandate, I would like to think that they might have been talking to a few people. I haven't heard very much about it though. So what kinds of consultations and stakeholder groups have been contacted about this mandate, and to what extent have those views been incorporated in the presentation now before Cabinet? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 149-15(4): Status Of The NWT Housing Corporation Mandate Review

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have made a presentation to the committee, but it was looking more at some of the guiding principles we are following. I made a commitment to committee that we will go directly to committee once the mandate has been approved through Cabinet. We are hoping to take this to committee within the next few weeks. It is going to Cabinet this week, and hopefully we can take it to committee next week, if that's possible.

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

Supplementary To Question 149-15(4): Status Of The NWT Housing Corporation Mandate Review

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering why this particular Minister doesn't get it, either. The committees and Members on this side are not the constituents or the clients of the Housing Corporation. There are some 23 local housing organizations administering 2,344 subsidized rental housing units. This is the constituency that the corporation should be talking with. We hear that Cabinet has to sign off on a mandate for the Housing Corporation before anybody else has the chance to talk about it. How can it be that this corporation has ignored the people who are really involved, and the real customers, in reviewing this essential mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 149-15(4): Status Of The NWT Housing Corporation Mandate Review

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this process has included regional staff, people at our local housing authorities, and there has been information provided to front line workers to ensure they are aware of how we are going to devolve and include them through that process. So we have made attempts to meet with our local housing authorities, our district staff, and making sure that people in headquarters are aware of how we are going to roll out with regard to those new mandate changes. We have met with those different agents that we are responsible for.

I will also mention that this has been taking place over the last year with regard to the guidelines that we put forward. We all know that the mandate has changed with the decision to look at social housing being administered by Education. Because of that, we are now moving forward.

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

Supplementary To Question 149-15(4): Status Of The NWT Housing Corporation Mandate Review

MR. BRADEN: So, Mr. Speaker, what I guess we can anticipate here is another piece of paper that Cabinet is going to approve -- I heard the word "approve" -- then it's going to be passed over here for rubberstamping, I guess. To what degree is Cabinet going to control the overall review and acceptance of the Housing Corporation's new mandate, or is this just another rubberstamp exercise? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 149-15(4): Status Of The NWT Housing Corporation Mandate Review

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this process, as I mentioned, has been going on for the last year. It's not something that's come up overnight. We have been working with the different boards and agencies, and also we are working with Education on how this is going to be laid out; how we are going to work with the different housing authorities; how we are going to deal with the management of the lands, the property that we have. We have not just brought this up overnight. It's been in the works over the last year. I feel that Cabinet

will have an in-depth review, and then we are committed to taking it to committee to ensure that they understand how this will work going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 150-15(4): Upgrade Of Highway No. 8

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke today on the condition of the Dempster Highway, and I have a few questions for the Minister of Transportation. With all this traffic that's going to be going on the highway when the pipeline goes through, is there a master plan to upgrade the highway, widen it, just so it's a lot safer for the trucks and the people who are travelling on it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 150-15(4): Upgrade Of Highway No. 8

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we recognize the need for more work to be done on Highway No. 8. Highway No. 8 is roughly 262 kilometres long, and the majority of it is requiring reconstruction to handle the traffic volumes, but also because of the age of the highway. We've had a very tough summer. We've had a lot of moisture and a lot of rain. It's created havoc on a lot of our roads, not only on Highway No. 8. Highway No. 1 and Highway No. 7 are also experiencing the same conditions. We have done the preliminary engineering on the Highway No. 8 system. We have looked at the cost. We estimate it to be around \$60 million. We've committed, through our capital planning, to spend an average of \$5 million a year. We've also included it in our needs.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we haven't been able to find all the money as yet. We have been able to earmark roughly \$30 million through our strategic infrastructure funding. We are still short a significant amount, roughly half of what it's going to take to complete the project. We are looking at packaging it up as part of our submissions to the federal government to meet some of our short-term needs on the highway infrastructure system. We are also including it as part of the longer-term vision from our department that will go forward to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary To Question 150-15(4): Upgrade Of Highway No. 8

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for the update. Earlier this summer, I invited the Minister to go on a tour of the highway with me so he could see the condition of the highway first hand. We will get that tour done, hopefully, next summer. Will the Minister and his department look at chipsealing part of the highway as part of the master plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 150-15(4): Upgrade Of Highway No. 8

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now our focus is to do a lot of the work that is required along the highway: the drainage, the road widening, the realignment. Those things are all required on this road. We also have to replace most of the culverts that are along the Highway No. 8 system. This year, I think we replaced 60 culverts and reconstructed roughly 93 kilometres of that whole road system. We have not included a chipsealing program for that highway as yet. Maybe that's something we will look at as part of the legacy program, or some of the socioeconomic impacts of the Mackenzie gas project. It is not in our budget currently, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 150-15(4): Upgrade Of Highway No. 8

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. If the chipsealing is going to be a problem, we will settle for dust control. This was a terrible summer on the highway. All the way, there was absolutely no dust control, maybe 12 kilometres. So will the Minister commit to having his department do dust control on the whole 262 kilometres next summer? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 150-15(4): Upgrade Of Highway No. 8

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we did increase our budget. I will certainly commit to keeping it at the level where we have invested. We have a budget authority of roughly \$70,000 a year. We've now raised that up to roughly \$250,000, and we will continue to stay at that level. As we apply dust control over the next couple of years, I think we will see improvements in those areas. Thank you.

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

Question 151-15(4): NWT Housing Corporation Operations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have more questions for the Honourable David Krutko, Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, as a preamble to this set of questions, I want to say that on our pre-budget consultation, and what we've heard for years in the North, is that we have a critical shortage of adequate, affordable housing. It is a mandate of this government to address that need. I have no problem with investing money; however, I have a huge problem with wasting money. That's the crux of the questions that I am asking today. For the Minister's information, there are between 55 and 60 people in headquarters. I think that that's a lot of people, given the transfer of the responsibility for the \$30 million recently. So let me ask the Minister again, has there been any reduction in staff as a result of devolving

the function for the social housing to ECE? Has there been any reduction in headquarters? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 151-15(4): NWT Housing Corporation Operations

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, there hasn't been.

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

Supplementary To Question 151-15(4): NWT Housing Corporation Operations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the changing mandate of the Housing Corporation that the Minister has referred to, does he anticipate that the new mandate will require the same level of staffing at headquarters? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 151-15(4): NWT Housing Corporation Operations

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the new mandate change, we are looking at using the same people that we presently have in house. We may expand in the area of land management because we don't have any expertise in that area. So we may be seeing a slight increase there.

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

Supplementary To Question 151-15(4): NWT Housing Corporation Operations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, in my first set of questions, I referred to the contracting out of certain functions from the Housing Corporation. I have a few notifications for tenders that have gone out from the Housing Corporation here. One is for the development of a financial skills program, a two-day homeowner education course, and the other one is for a home purchase, a one-day education course. The people responding to these tenders should submit to the program development specialist in house. I am thinking if you are contracting out for one and two-day programs for people to learn how to purchase a home and manage their financial skills, what does the program development specialist do? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 151-15(4): NWT Housing Corporation Operations

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do, at times, have to depend on the expertise of other people outside of the corporation. Yes, we do have people who are responsible for different portfolios, but we are undertaking a new initiative with regard to identifying the liaison positions in communities. Before we

allow those people to go in the field, we offer training to those individuals through our regional offices, or have someone come in and do that. I believe that's the position the Member is talking about. We are trying to expand in that area in the liaison positions in communities where we don't have program officers. On the Member's earlier point, she was close when she said 55 positions. We have 54 positions in headquarters and 49 positions in the district offices. So you were pretty close. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Time for oral questions has expired; however, I will allow the Member her final supplementary. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 151-15(4): NWT Housing Corporation Operations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not getting any feelings of assurance that the number of people at headquarters is being well monitored and managed. It would just seem too coincidental that you could take a \$30 million program activity out of Housing, transfer it to ECE, and somehow you would need exactly the same number -- no, more people under the new mandate. It seems a little bit unscientific to me. Could the Minister give us a general idea of what the new mandate is going to include in terms of activity that could not only absorb the existing staff, but require more? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 151-15(4): NWT Housing Corporation Operations

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the main component of the new mandate change is getting away from focusing on social housing and social issues, and getting into property management and expanding the properties that we do have. We want to find ways of partnering with different groups, individuals, and corporations, to try to leverage more funding from federal program dollars, CMHC. One of the main components we are working on is to ensure that we do have resources to manage. Because we are running this as a business, we have to be more proactive. I think the Member's concerns are valid. Through presentations to yourselves as committee members with regard to our mandate change, hopefully with the input of the Members, we can see where we are going. One of the biggest challenges we are facing across the Northwest Territories is trying to find land to do property development. That's an area that's crucial to look at. Again, we are taking into consideration how we are going forward, and with the input of the Members of this House, we have to move in a different direction with the mandate change. We are open to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The time for oral questions has expired. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there nay nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 6, oral

questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 152-15(4): Medical Supplies Procurement

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, late this summer, somebody in Yellowknife came to me and said they were having difficulty providing service, and they provide medical supplies in the Northwest Territories. They were concerned that they were getting the cold shoulder. So on September 21st, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Health and Social Services asking four brief and simple questions. As of today, I haven't had any response from this Minister. Before I put my questions to him, I have to point out that it's these types of businesses who are asked to support the hospital and the hospital foundation. They say they would love to support these organizations, but if they are not given the chance to bid on contracts, even if they lose them potentially, but not even given the chance to try, how can they afford to help support these organizations? This letter is almost a month old. When can I expect a response so I can tell this person who is trying to run a business in the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 152-15(4): Medical Supplies Procurement

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the end of session. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 152-15(4): Medical Supplies Procurement

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This person in Yellowknife who does the medical supply business says they never seem to know or see any purchase tenders go out in the newspaper. Again, they come from the perspective that they would just like a fair opportunity to apply and bid on these contracts, but they feel that they continually get the cold shoulder. What's the policy on public tenders, or do you just go straight to sole source in the South? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 152-15(4): Medical Supplies Procurement

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have some arrangements with some organizations and businesses in the Northwest Territories. I will make sure that we have a comprehensive reply for the Member by the end of session.

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

Supplementary To Question 152-15(4): Medical Supplies Procurement

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate hearing that news from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, my next question for the Minister is, does he have a policy that supersedes all policies about going south for sole source? Can I get some clarity on that to make sure that our northern contractors have an opportunity to bid on these? Again, if they lose them, that's fine. They want to be able to compete and try fairly. Do we have that policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 152-15(4): Medical Supplies Procurement

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a department of this government, we follow the contracting guidelines that are there for all government departments to follow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 153-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask some more questions of Mr. Krutko, Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. It concerns an initiative that is now in its second year, the market housing initiative. Mr. Speaker, this was something that this Assembly initially supported because it was designed to assist those communities that were having trouble attracting and keeping essential employees for GNWT services, especially Health and Education. We are now into the second and final year of delivering a total of 42 units to communities. What is the status on the delivery of the second lot of units, and are we on time and are we able to get things in under the weather radar here, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 153-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the majority of the units are in place. We have units going to Aklavik, Deline, Norman Wells, Rae and Gameti. The only one that still hasn't been placed is the one in Gameti. It's going to have to go on the winter road this winter. With regard to Rae, there are three units that have not been in place. We have one unit that is presently being constructed. We have two units still at the plant, and one unit is on site because we are presently in the process of developing the properties that they sit on. In Norman Wells, they are presently being constructed. We are hoping to have them ready to go by the end of November. The one in Aklavik is presently being put on site, and we are hoping to have that ready by the end of November. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 153-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to focus on the original objective of this, which was to get employees into units that were appropriate for them and affordable. The uptake on this in the first year was not all that great. I wanted to ask the Minister, of the 42 units that are either on site or in the process of being finalized, how many of them are being occupied by those essential workers, the initial target group of tenants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 153-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regard to phase one, the 22 units, we do have 18 units occupied. There are four units that aren't occupied. Sixteen units are occupied by professionals, but we have sold two units in Tulita and one in Fort Resolution. Interest has been shown for other units in Fort Good Hope and Fort Liard.

Mr. Speaker, people have taken up housing units in those communities. Because they are available and people realize they are there, they understand what the cost of renting these units are. With the promotion of the Department of Education and ourselves, people will realize when you go into the communities that there is a cost associated with the rent. In order to rent these units, they will have to pay a certain price. We are able to bring down those costs; we are seeing an intake of different professionals. We have seen a major increase with regard to the rental of those units. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 153-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that was a pretty skinny answer. Maybe I will try it again. This Assembly and government went through considerable contortions to get the budgets passed, enable this to happen because we believed in the idea. We wanted to respond to those communities that were having problems getting teachers and nurses on site in our communities. The Minister has told us that a bunch of professionals are using them. That's good. It's great to see them occupied, but has the corporation managed to put together the costs or the availability of these for that target audience? How many of these 42 units are occupied by nurses and teachers? Let's try it that way, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 153-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member keeps referring to 42 units. As we all know, the last 20 units were implemented this year. At the time that it was presented to the House and we approved the budget, we made it clear to them that those 20 other units will not be on the ground. I would just like to have the

Member realize that we went through a logistic problem the first time around, and we are going through it again. A lot of these communities are through the road access, and also ensuring that we have to deal with barging. As I said, Mr. Speaker, I don't think we discriminate between professionals in communities. They are professionals that work at the band office, professionals who work at the municipal office. It's not totally for nurses and teachers. This is a program to build capacity in communities and ensure that professional people who do live in these communities now have the ability to rent locally and not have to worry about trying to find accommodation once they get there. We are now providing accommodation in those communities to professionals in all walks of life, not just strictly to nurses and teachers. The communities are requiring these units to provide these programs and services that we ask them to deliver on our behalf. So we can't restrict these to certain professionals. Again, we have seen a major increase in that area. As I stated earlier, 18 of these units are now presently occupied, under phase one, out of 22. So we are almost at 90 percent capacity. That alone should show you that we are providing assistance to those people to keep them in those communities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 153-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

MR. BRADEN: Okay, so the Minister doesn't have information for us or can't go back to really what the original objective was and say that it has been satisfied; the program has changed to accommodate other people. Mr. Speaker, one part of this program was also that the units will not be subsidized and the Housing Corporation has been directed -- I'm reading from the business plan of last year -- to ensure a lease rate that is based on a full cost recovery basis. Can the Minister assure the House that the cost of renting and the sale of some of these units have indeed been at full cost recovery? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 153-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is the direction that was given by Cabinet when this was taken out. It had to be at full cost recovery and that's exactly how it has been operated. Thank you.

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

Question 154-15(4): Cost Of Seniors' Facilities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to pick up where some of my colleagues left off, and I've got questions as well for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation on their track record in terms of seniors' facilities. I'd like to first of all ask the Minister if he can advise us, as a segue into this, Mr. Speaker; we had the opportunity in April to visit the community of Tuktoyaktuk, which has a seniors' facility, and Regular Members were able to go and get a tour of this facility. Mr. Speaker, we couldn't find one senior in the entire

facility, and in fact there were apartments there that hadn't been lived in in three years. We'd go in and open the fridge and the fridge would be on full blast, the heat was on full blast and there wasn't a soul living in the whole place except for the caretakers, Mr. Speaker. I'd like the Minister to advise us what the capital costs and the ongoing associated O and M costs are for the seniors' facilities in Deline, Fort Resolution and Tuktoyaktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 154-15(4): Cost Of Seniors' Facilities

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, a lot of these facilities are built and designed with the Department of Health and Social Services, through the arrangement to provide seniors' facilities in communities, and also in regard to alcohol and drug programs. The department, along with other departments, has done an assessment of all of the facilities that we presently operate with less than 30 percent capacity. We are presently in the process of working with those different agencies.

You touched on an area that was raised in the House earlier in regard to the Deline facility. We have a committee in place, and we're hoping to have that unit up and running by 2006, and have the parties agree on exactly what the use of that facility is. The same thing applies to the facility in Tuk. That facility was constructed as any other seniors' facility throughout the North. It was in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Services to provide seniors' care in communities. But at the facility in Tuk, as you mentioned, we are presently in the process of restricting certain access to half of the facility and allowing that half of the facility to be used for public housing tenants. So we are looking at starting to rent out those facilities and keeping the other half for a seniors' facility, as it has been agreed to. But again, through the review by the departments on the 30 percent occupancy to ensure that we find other uses for that facility.

The Member also mentioned the Somba K'e facility. We're presently working with people in the private sector such as Bosco Homes and other agencies to see if they are interested in acquiring that facility for the intent of that facility, which was a treatment facility. I think because of the restrictions of the agreements that were in place prior to where we are today, where a lot of the agreements we had did not have an opt in or out clause, we're basically stuck with the facility and paying the mortgage and whatnot on these facilities and to carry forward.

So, Mr. Speaker, that's the short of it.

---Laughter

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

Supplementary To Question 154-15(4): Cost Of Seniors' Facilities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister what type of meaningful consultation takes place with a community that would

allow a facility built in a community like Tuktoyaktuk to stand vacant for three years, and now we're actually going to try to go back and do something about it? But whose responsibility is it that that facility built with our scarce resources sat empty for three years? I'd like to ask the Minister how much did it cost to build these three facilities, and what has been the ongoing operations and maintenance costs for those three facilities for the past three years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 154-15(4): Cost Of Seniors' Facilities

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that detail in regard to the actual operational costs, but I know in regard to Somba K'e we had winterized that facility, which basically shut down last winter. We are in the process now of talking with the band and other corporations, and I know that the facility in Tuk was occupied with a few elders last year, but they are being used. So, Mr. Speaker, I don't have the total operational costs of those facilities, but we are looking at alternative uses for those facilities, and we are trying to occupy them. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 154-15(4): Cost Of Seniors' Facilities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad thing that pieces of public infrastructure get built in communities, and, again, the Minister didn't answer the question. What type of meaningful consultation takes place in a community that would allow a seniors' facility to be built and nobody living in it for three years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 154-15(4): Cost Of Seniors' Facilities

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, we do have a budgetary process that has to pass through this House, and it has to be approved in that process. How it gets there is determined by the department and the demands of communities.

In regards to elders' facilities, the population does fluctuate where we do have other alternative uses for facilities. I think because of the capital process, we go through departments, come forward with the capital requirements to this House, and get the capital dollars to construct them. In regard to those facilities, I believe that there was a demand for this facility, and it was passed in this House. At present, we are seeing that there is less use for those facilities because of changing circumstances. The funding that was there in the past, especially a lot of the federal funding, has lapsed, and we have to look at alternative sources of revenues.

So, Mr. Speaker, the capital is approved through this House, and we all have an opportunity to debate it in the House. Thank you.

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

Question 155-15(4): Access To Housing Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I was going to speak on the core housing need in the Tlicho region, and also for the North, since the topic happens to be the Housing Corp.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, it's a real shocker that in this day and age there are many families in the Tlicho region, and I'm sure the rest of the Northwest Territories, that still get their water from the lake, and have outhouses in their backyards. Mr. Speaker, many of the residents have trouble accessing programs and services of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Can the Minister tell this Assembly how NWT residents living in horrendous conditions, reminiscent of the Third World, can access the programs and services provided through the NWT Housing Corporation? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 155-15(4): Access To Housing Programs

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you know, we have concluded different needs surveys. We have been able to pinpoint a lot of these areas where we do have very low standards in regard to living conditions where people live. I think that whole thrust behind the reports that have come forward is we have identified some 20 communities that are in core need, and I think through those needs surveys we are able to identify those communities that need the resources. As a department, we are making sure that all the resources that we do have are going to those communities to get down those core needs numbers to ensure we bring people's living standards up to a certain level.

Again, a lot of these programs are based on our capital budget. The \$4 million that was addressed in this House in regard to the Northern Strategy is going to those 14 communities who are in that core needs category. As a government, we are limited on our resources, and I am working in conjunction with the federal Minister in regard to the \$1.6 billion for housing. A lot of the emphasis for that money is going to be focused on aboriginal communities. I think that's where the problem lies, is in those aboriginal communities.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we are working through our needs surveys, identifying the federal resources that are out there, and identifying those communities that we have identified to ensure we bring down those core needs so we can make a difference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 155-15(4): Access To Housing Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, can the Minister inform the Assembly how the corporation determines the allocation of repairs, renovations, new home construction funding, and whether access to adequate water, sewer and heating services is a primary consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 155-15(4): Access To Housing Programs

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the programs that are provided through the Housing Corporation are application-based programs. We have worked out different pilot projects in different communities with the First Nations' governments so that they can work with their membership to make these improvements; but a lot of these programs are based on need; and we definitely try to focus on those people in those conditions that the Member mentions. Again, it's important for the public to realize that you have to fill out an application for these programs, and I think it's important that we give communities the power to identify these individuals and give them the resources to deal with these program responsibilities in those communities. So we are devolving those authorities to communities and making sure that they come forward. Again, as MLAs, you also have an important role to play by coming forward to myself as the Minister and making me aware of these conditions so we can, as a department, address them. I'm glad to say that I find an open door policy a lot better than trying to go through the system of the application, because a lot of people don't realize they have been approved, but because of the construction season and materials getting in, it usually takes a year or two before they even see the project underway. Again, it's a cooperative process. We all have to work together to find the solutions. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 155-15(4): Access To Housing Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to doing a survey of those households specifically without access to basic services, and develop a strategy to deal with this need based on core housing needs? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 155-15(4): Access To Housing Programs

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to doing another survey, we just completed two surveys. Our surveys are usually done in conjunction with Stats Canada, and we usually do it every two years. So we have done two surveys in the last four years. What I could do for the Members is pull the report identifying those people in your riding, so we can see exactly where they are and where the surveys have pinpointed the core problem areas. We can work with you to resolve that. I will commit to that for the Member.

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

Supplementary To Question 155-15(4): Access To Housing Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My next question is, when can the Minister commit to visiting the Tlicho region to address this serious issue? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 155-15(4): Access To Housing Programs

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have had the chance to meet with the Tlicho leadership, and I have committed to them to do a tour of the Tlicho region with the Tlicho Government and local representatives of their government to ensure that we find a way to deal with housing in conjunction with each other. Also, going into each of the Tlicho communities, we are looking at possibly November or early December, whenever the time permits; but I have committed to the leadership, and to the Member I commit here today, that we are willing to go into the Tlicho communities in November.

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

Question 156-15(4): Housing Corporation Projects

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will continue on asking questions of the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. It's when I hear my colleagues like Mr. Lafferty talk about real and core needs in the community that it just becomes so offensive that we could somehow misdirect millions of dollars in funding. I saw the Tuk seniors' facility too, and it cost millions of dollars to build that. It's a beautiful facility that overlooks the ocean; the units are gorgeous. I want to live there, but the people and seniors in Tuk don't want to live there. How the Housing Corporation could have been so far off the mark as to invest millions of dollars and have no uptake is indicative of a very serious problem. And you can say we debated here on the floor of the House, but you know what, when we debate capital projects here on the floor of the House, we assume the department or the corporation has done their work. We're not in a position to know whether it's good planning or not. We rely heavily on what comes forward from departments when we approve capital projects. We don't have that kind of familiarity with what's going on in the communities.

So I would like to ask the Minister, now that he's in charge, what is he going to do to assure us that this kind of thing is not going to happen again? It's not good enough to reprofile this now after the fact. The fact is it was built, the seniors don't want it, and it's costing us a fortune to maintain it. How many more times is this going to happen?

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

Return To Question 156-15(4): Housing Corporation Projects

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have seen a lot of communities going away from these seniors' facilities and trying to get independent housing for seniors to keep the seniors in their homes as long as we can. I think, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Services also, that there is a cry from communities that they want to ensure that their seniors are housed in their communities and not sent away to long-term care facilities. I think we're balancing between keeping elders independent and in their own homes as long as we can. Also, we're trying to ensure that we don't find ourselves institutionalizing them at regional centres. I think that's the balance that we're looking for.

In regard to the facilities that the Members have touched on, I know Tuk is a problem area. I have also been in that facility, and I think that we do have to reprofile and look at multi-purpose facilities where you don't just simply use them for one reason, and that you're able to use them for other purposes. Because of the way the relationship between Housing and Health and Social Services is, they identify those facilities, they identify the clients through the surveys they do in communities and also ensure that the facilities are available. So, again, we have to have the flexibility to reprofile our facilities, especially those that are unoccupied, but also keep in mind we want to keep seniors in their homes as long as we can and offer them independence through our IHP program. We have independent housing programs where a lot of seniors now have ownership of their own facilities, but keep them out of those facilities. So, again, we're trying to do a balancing act. Again, the responsibility also lies with the Department of Health and Social Services.

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

Supplementary To Question 156-15(4): Housing Corporation Projects

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Minister says that it's the wish of his department and this government to keep seniors in their own homes living independently, that just leads into something I referred to earlier in my Member's statement, which is how can there be such a gap between offering social housing to seniors, zero rent, and offering virtually no support for seniors who are trying. That's a contradictory statement, Mr. Speaker, to say we're trying to encourage. What specific programs does the NWT Housing Corporation have today, or are they planning tomorrow to offer some assistance to seniors who want to live independently, who are attached to their own homes, who are well enough to look after themselves, but their neighbour down the street is living in a public housing unit for zero? What are we going to do to close that gap? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 156-15(4): Housing Corporation Projects

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government, we do encourage seniors to

stay in their homes through tax rebates, fuel subsidies, and also that we, as a corporation, have implemented the seniors' maintenance repair program and are having to deliver it through our LHOs to ensure that the seniors' furnaces, water pumps, and tanks are maintained every year so that they know that they're inspected. So we are delivering that program through the Housing Corporation. A lot of our programs in regard to emergency repairs and whatnot are basically structured to homeownership, but a lot of that goes directly to seniors. I think it's important that seniors don't feel that there is an unfair disparity between people that stay in public housing and don't pay rent, and seniors that maintain their own home and require that type of assistance through fuel subsidies, tax rebates and also the other program I mentioned that go to seniors, the emergency repair programs.

Those types of programs are structured toward seniors, but I think we can do more, and I think that we are hoping to have the flexibility to do that. The Member is right; we do have to find a clear way of not seeing disparity between people not paying rent and people trying to maintain their own homes. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 156-15(4): Housing Corporation Projects

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister named off a number of subsidies and supports that are available -- tax relief -- things that are available to seniors in their own homes. All of those particular supports are means tested. In other words, if your household income is over a certain threshold, you do not qualify. However, if you are fortunate enough to get approved for public housing, there is no means test. You could be a millionaire and live in social housing as a senior for nothing, as long as you are over 60 and you are in need.

---Laughter

Seriously, you can have a big pension. Alright, maybe a millionaire is an exaggeration. You could have a very large government pension and live in a senior's housing unit for zero rent. Would the Minister consider leveling that playing field a little by charging at least something to seniors in public housing who can afford to pay? We apply means tests to everybody who gets a subsidy; why don't we apply some kind of a means test to people who are getting their rent for free now? Even if it is minimal, even if it is nominal. That money could then go towards leveling the playing field so that all seniors could receive some assistance to live in this costly place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 156-15(4): Housing Corporation Projects

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is the whole intention, the whole idea, of centralizing a lot of the social funding that we do have, and that will be administered now through the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. The dollars presently for seniors who don't pay for rent will

have to go to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. So we will no longer be subsidizing now. We will be strictly dealing with a new department that deals with social funding.

As we all know, there is \$100 million that is out there in regard to some form of a grant or contribution. I think that it is important that we take a look at how those dollars are allocated and ensuring that we consider things, as the Member mentioned, looking at the need thresholds and making sure that everybody takes advantage of it.

I think it is important to realize the federal government also has a role to play in regard to the federal programs that have been mentioned lately, in regard to finding ways of giving the people that are low income and homeowners the grant, through the different grant programs that are being announced. There are also federal programs, but also the responsibility now will lie with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment as of April 1st.

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

Supplementary To Question 156-15(4): Housing Corporation Projects

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what is the Minister prepared to commit to in the House today in terms of consultation with seniors themselves, with respect to Public Housing Program supports to seniors, seeking the input of people from the communities so that we can avoid the kind of waste that we have seen take place in these communities that have been touched on today? Can the Minister commit to me today that he will put in place a very good consultation process to ensure that the stakeholders are consulted, and that we can avoid this needless waste? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 156-15(4): Housing Corporation Projects

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been working, in conjunction with the NWT Seniors' Society, and have been able to fund them through a grant in order to allow them to look at housing issues. Also, in regard to their partnership, there are other seniors' initiatives that are taking place, and I think that as a government we have to ensure that we include our seniors by way of consultation. We conduct annual meetings or even meet with the elders' groups and societies in a lot of our communities where we have elders' counsels and whatnot. I think that it is crucial that we do develop a paper that outlines seniors' programs, but also ensures them that they are aware of the changes that are taking place.

Working with the Department of Health and Social Services, the Minister responsible for Seniors, and also working with the NWT Seniors' Society, we are hoping to be able to find solutions to these problems for seniors. Thank You.

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

Question 157-15(4): Fuel Price Increases

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, in light of the discussions that we are having this afternoon, I want to ask the Minister responsible for the petroleum products division, in terms of emergency needs...This has to do with the increase of fuel prices in the small communities. We are getting mixed messages from our communities.

Even Bern Brown from Colville Lake wrote a letter to me on his old typewriter, saying, why the increase? I guess the issue here is, what forms of communication is the Minister giving to the communities? Because of the mixed messages of resupply, winter barge, winter road resupply and barge supply, and the increase will be here, the increase will be there, what is the message that the department is going to be giving, once and for all, to the communities on this high increase of fuel in our communities this winter?

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

Return To Question 157-15(4): Fuel Price Increases

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the area of petroleum products, notification was sent out to Members, and notification was given out to communities, that an increase was coming effective April 1st. That increase is a result of two things. First, we have gone to a full cost recovery model for pricing of products in communities. That means that the cost of delivering that product to a community is what is going to be charged at that community going forward. In the past, there was a different model used where some communities that had larger volume sales were offsetting the higher costs in the smaller communities. That is no longer happening. We are going with full cost recovery in every community. Secondly, the resupply situation that has happened over the summer has added a further increased cost to the product itself. That is also being reflected in this recent change. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 157-15(4): Fuel Price Increases

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The full cost recovery...I am having a hard time here, Mr. Speaker in terms of the prices that are going to be charged in these small, isolated communities. Wekweeti is \$1.56; Nahanni Butte is \$1.33; Colville Lake is \$1.50; and Paulatuk is \$1.50. In terms of helping out the small communities in their traditional lifestyle, it is going to be pretty tough for these people who live in this type of a situation. Can the Minister help me out here by explaining full cost recovery, and what type of support assistance would these people with low income receive in terms of having a decent living? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 157-15(4): Fuel Price Increases

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the petroleum products division itself we

are not providing any subsidies to individuals out there. There are a number of other programs within other departments that do help out people in the North. One is the seniors' fuel subsidy; another, through income support, possibly, would be a hardship allowance. Again, that is income tested.

What we have done in the petroleum products division is to try to offset the increased cost of home heating oil. Within our stabilization fund, there was enough funding there to lower the price or keep the price from going up further by 10 cents a litre on home heating oil. That is one of the things that we have done, is taken some of that subsidy to lower what the impact would have been had we not applied that 10 cent reduction to home heating oil. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 157-15(4): Fuel Price Increases

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister, how is this type of information, through the communities down the valley, being communicated? Again, you said the notification went out to the MLAs, to the communities; how is that being...Because of the different mixed messages that the communities are receiving, I'm not too sure in how plain a language you could put it, Mr. Minister, in letting the communities know. Can the people in Colville Lake know that \$1.50 will now stay until next year, or is there going to be an increase in the heating fuel or the gasoline fuel? They weren't notified when the prices were increased, and they were in shock, actually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 157-15(4): Fuel Price Increases

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we can work on doing an information package that we can put out there. We can possibly look at what immediate ways we can get it out to the people, whether it is flyers or something like that. I think we have to, again, recognize the cost of getting information out there. I think we can look at trying to get a package out there that is fairly straightforward as to what the impacts are. The difference would be, now that we have changed the full cost recovery model where we are paying for the basic prices of product, the taxes that are applied to the federal government and ourselves and the commission cost -- the cost of having the fuel delivered in the community by a contractor -- there are basic parameters already there. The only change that will happen now is the actual cost of the product and transportation to the community. The rest will stay relatively stable. That is a thing that will happen. That will happen in the communities where resupply happens in the summer. That will be shortly after resupply happens. An adjustment will happen at that point. After winter resupply, again, adjustments will be made shortly after that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 157-15(4): Fuel Price Increases

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is the issue here in terms of the price increase in the smaller communities that the Minister has indicated. I hope he sees some communication in advance going out to the small communities of what they are to expect in terms of proper planning, in terms of looking at different options, in terms of paying for the high cost of fuel. Mr. Speaker, in light of the amount of gas we have in the Northwest Territories, it is really hard to see that this type of increase can come down in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister advise the House that this type of information would also be done in the North Slavey language, or any other language that is primarily an aboriginal language? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 157-15(4): Fuel Price Increases

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we can look at doing some information packages that would be done in the aboriginal language of the regions. Again, we are going to rely on a fair bit of support through community delivery agencies. We have passed information out there about the change. Obviously, that comes up short. We will look at what package we can put together. I am willing to discuss with Members what might be the best move in getting that information out, and work on it from that end of it. Thank you.

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

Question 158-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to ask questions on housing, as well. I think it is good that we are doing this today because housing was, bar none, the number one issue we heard about in our pre-budget consultation. When we are all aware of the housing crisis, it is really important that we spend every penny we have in the housing budget as much as possible. We find here now that the corporation is in a little bit of a crisis mode. It is going through a review of the mandate which we have not seen yet. It has had \$30 million of its budget being transferred to ECE. That is a huge hole in its mandate without replacing it with any other kind of project other than this thing called the Novel project, Mr. Speaker. I believe -- and I am an optimist -- the pipeline will go ahead. My nightmare is that, when they come and go, we are going to have 1,400 trailers scattered all over the Territories that nobody wants. That is my big nightmare.

Mr. Speaker, I think we are reasonable to think this because the corporation has not done such a great job on placing 40 trailers. Imagine what they could do with 1,400. Mr. Speaker, there have not been any kinds of documents or anything, discussion papers or anything, a cost benefit analysis. Does the Minister have any plan on letting any kind of information out to the public so the public can judge for themselves what a great deal this is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 158-15(4): Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, this idea has been presented through our business plan process. We have talked to committee. We basically have offered tours for committee members to see the facility for themselves. It is not as if no one has been involved in this. I think it is important to realize that this is on the basis that we have a project. Without a project, this idea will not go anywhere. I think that we have to realize that, without a pipeline, this is not...Again, we are in the process of negotiations. This is part of the government's social impact benefits that we are hoping to derive from the pipeline that is presently under those negotiations. I have been presenting this to the federal Minister, looking at the federal monies that are coming forward. Because this project is so far in the future, we cannot commit to making any capital expenditures until we realize that the project is up and running, the units will be occupied for a number of years during construction, and then where we go after that.

There has been involvement from Cabinet colleagues and the Department of Finance. The federal government is aware of this. Again, we are depending on a lot of these dollars that we are talking about coming by way of the federal government initiatives. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we are aware that we have some challenges today. We have put proposals to the federal government looking at the \$1.6 billion to deal with funding for the next three years. It is not as if we have been doing nothing. We are looking at that by way of getting federal funding. We are looking at somewhere in the range of about \$25 million a year with matching funding. Hopefully, we will be able to put 100 units a year on the ground for the next three years. That is the objective we are trying to meet. We are working this through.

Mr. Speaker, those are some of the areas we covered. Again, a lot of these decisions – you talk about Novel – are all based on there being a pipeline. This is the concept that they will use to provide these workforce camps for the pipeline.

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

Supplementary To Question 158-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that this proposal was received without a lot of...It was not very well received, let me just say. There were just lots of questions that the Minister has not been able to answer at the committee level.

Instead of providing the information that Members need to make good sound judgment about such a mega project, he has taken the initiative to invite anybody who wants to come and see this trailer in Calgary. I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, there are some really nice trailers in my riding. I know what a trailer looks like. I don't need to go all the way to Calgary to see what it is going to look like. We are talking about this corporation spending the equivalent to two years' budget for the entire corporation for 1,400 trailers so that the old companies could use it and ATCO could benefit from it, and he hasn't done a cost benefit

analysis. I want to know from the Minister when any of us would see some kind of a document that gives us the goods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 158-15(4): Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to, again, remind the Member that I have presented this to committee. We have given documentation out. Again, this will not see the light of day unless there is a pipeline. We have to work with our different parties that are out there, and that it is all hinging on a decision to go forward for a pipeline. Without that decision, we will not have this project.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Short supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 158-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the Minister has information that he is not sharing with us, but I am operating under the assumption that the pipeline is going to go ahead. Regardless, the Minister has indicated that he is talking to the federal Minister. He has negotiations going. He is travelling to Calgary every month to look at his project. He has a consultant on this. He has spent so much money on a project, and he hasn't given us...It is going to cost at least over \$100 million. Where is the analysis, Mr. Speaker?

AN HON. MEMBER: Good question.

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

Further Return To Question 158-15(4): Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, just to clear the air, we have not hired any consultants for this. It has all been done in house and also working with the Department of Finance, through our finance people, to deal with this. We have been working along with other parties, which includes Imperial Oil, to see exactly how they were going to be able to consider this as a possibility of a proposal that we are putting forward through our social impacts to be considered as part of the wishes of this government.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we have been in the process of developing this. Yes, we have been requesting federal assistance for this program so we, as a government, will not be stuck holding the bag. There are federal programs out there that basically will get this type of submission. We have been working with the federal government. CMHC is party to this. Maybe the Member doesn't realize that there are certain confidential agreements in place in regard to releasing this information, especially between the parties that are presently involved, but also in regard to our position going forward with Imperial Oil on the social impact agreements. Again, there are confidential restrictions here in releasing this information, but I am willing to present this to committee again if that is what it is going to take. We have already gone to that.

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

Supplementary To Question 158-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A short final supplementary. My riding of Range Lake was a great beneficiary of George Jones' concert. We had lots of people from all of the communities at Tim Hortons. Even without any prodding, I have had people from Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk telling me, "We don't want any trailers in my home town." They have already heard about this. There is nothing confidential about the 1,400 Novel trailers. If the Minister is not going to give us this information, I want to know when he is prepared to ask the Joe Panches of Trout Lake and all the people in Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk who have to live in these trailers what they think of that. We don't want 1,400 trailers that nobody wants to live in. That is the important question. When will they find out? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 158-15(4): Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have to wake up to reality here that we do have a housing crisis in the Northwest Territories and, at the pace that we are going, we cannot afford to put 2,000 units on the ground with the existing budget that we have as a government. We have to find unique ways of being able to accomplish that, with realizing that this is one of the ways that we can do that. I think that, as Members can note, you go to every community up and down the valley and see that there are people living in trailers, either here in Yellowknife or other places in the Territories. We have market housing, which basically are mobile homes that go into communities. At the end of the day, the product that we are going to buy, we want to ensure that it meets our standards and it meets the northern climate that it is going to be put in. So ensuring that we have the product that meets our needs, but also ensuring that the residents of the Northwest Territories will know that they can live in comfort with a roof over their heads, realizing that we have a crisis in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 159-15(4): Costs Of Novel Housing Project

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, to continue with this line of questioning to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation on the ATCO Novel housing proposal here, it is indeed, on the surface from a conceptual point of view, one of the kinds of legacy projects that we all anticipate could come out of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline project. It has great potential. It is one that we should be looking at with all seriousness but, to date, as my colleagues have pointed out, there are some very major gaps in the business planning approach.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell that we are going to have to wear out a few shovels to get to the core of this matter, so I will start with one of them. Mr. Speaker, how much money is at stake for this project? Where will it come from? Who are the identified stakeholders in this proposal? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 159-15(4): Costs Of Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in answering this question, we are not committed to this idea until the project is concluded, when the facilities will have to be abandoned and moved off site after the pipeline is built. So in order for us to make our expenditure -- there are no expenditures needed at the front end. The expenditure will be done at the back end. The rough estimate of what we were looking at is \$90 million from the federal government. We assume that it is going to cost us in the range of...it depends on the negotiations. I think that we do have to be able to meet that. I have already met with the federal Minister on that. The majority of these costs will be earned through federal programs, through CMHC and other federal dollars that are out there. That is how we are looking at funding this.

We are trying to make sure that we get third party funding for this. It is not done in house. If anything, we may have to have some additional funds in regard to land development costs and whatnot. We may have to work with the municipalities or community governments that deal with that. That is sort of where we are at with this project.

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

Supplementary To Question 159-15(4): Costs Of Novel Housing Project

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are getting a bit more information. Now we know that we have about 1,400 units with some \$121 million potentially from the GNWT, and \$90 million from the Government of Canada, plus land development costs. So that gives us some idea of the scale and the scope. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister has pointed out, the pipeline is not yet a given, as much as we all hope that it will be. What we know now is that things are a little on the hypothetical side. When could we anticipate that these units would begin to be made available and put on site? What is the time frame we are looking at here? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 159-15(4): Costs Of Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the project goes according to time schedules, we are hoping to look at this project proceeding somewhere in 2010.

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

Supplementary To Question 159-15(4): Costs Of Novel Housing Project

MR. BRADEN: So 2010 and out. So, arguably, that is at least five years from now. That's fine. It gives us a time frame now, so we have some ideas about cost, quantity and time frame.

Mr. Speaker, just about any other major infrastructure project that we hear about anywhere else in Canada or the world, one of the things that goes along with it is the investment in our own backyard if we are getting maximum benefit from this. Now, ATCO doesn't have a manufacturing centre here in the North, at least at this time. Is it a safe assumption here that this proposal will include big time investment here in the NWT, so that the workers, suppliers, jobs and benefits are not going to accrue to that ATCO plant that is in our neighbouring province of Alberta? Are we going to get that investment benefit here? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 159-15(4): Costs Of Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have made it clear to ATCO and the other parties that we would like to have some sort of benefit that will flow through the North. I know that there have been councillors from Hay River meeting with ATCO and looking at the possibility of establishing some sort of a plant structure in Hay River. I think that it is important that we are able to work with the parties and allow the respective community leaders to meet with the different companies and see exactly what they are willing to put out. We have made it clear that we would like to ensure that there are spin-offs from this, that we also consider the human resource side of not only looking at the transition of conversion, but also look at the possibility of building certain facilities that are going to be required for this pipeline in the North. Presently, there are discussions going on between the different parties such as I mentioned. Councillors from Hay River have met with the people down in Calgary to look at the possibility of establishing a plant in Hay River.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Time for question period has expired. However, I will allow the Member to ask a supplementary question. Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 159-15(4): Costs of Novel Housing Project

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know a lot more about this project today than we did coming into question period. The Minister has told us that a lot of this is contingent on the project going ahead, but still there are certain commitments that are to be expected. This is a big project and a very innovative one. We may have to change the way we do some of our business. Are we going to have to make some upfront commitments, potentially years in advance of delivery of these units, in order to live up to our end of this hypothetical deal here? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 159-15(4): Costs Of Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, we have to realize that we are dealing with different parties dealing with the social impact benefits. What we are hoping to do is have some verbal, if not written, commitment made prior to the decision to go forward with the pipeline, and also making sure that when the decisions are made on wherever these camps are

going to be, that at the end of the project, we will have the ability to take those over at a negotiated price, working with the federal government to get the resources we will need for this project in the next five years. We need to get these legal agreements nailed down. I am hoping to have a meeting with the federal Minister in early November, and a meeting with the parties who are having these discussions, as we speak, regarding CMHC, ATCO, Imperial and other groups. We do have a committee overseeing this. We are trying to meet the timelines we are looking at. So, hopefully, we will have an agreement shortly, so we can see this project come to fruition.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 12-15(4): Impaired Driving Day

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, my written question is directed to the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Michael McLeod.

1. How many NWT schools were involved in the National Students Against Impaired Driving Day and what forms of government support were made available to them?
2. Can the Minister advise me the percentage of alcohol-related fatalities in the North, by region?

Thank you.

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

Written Question 13-15(4): Seniors' Facilities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

1. Would the Minister advise what the capital costs were for the seniors' facilities in each of the following communities: Deline, Fort Resolution, Tuktoyaktuk?
2. What is the current occupancy in each of these three facilities?
3. What has been the historic occupancy rate in each of these three facilities?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 14-15(4): Market Housing Initiative

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

1. What has been the total cost of the market housing initiative to date?

2. How many market units are in place at this time and, of those, how many are occupied by the original target clients; namely, professionals such as teachers and nurses?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 34-15(4): Colville Lake School Extension

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter to the House from the Colville Lake school. It's quite disturbing, and I would like to table it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 5-15(4): National Day Of Healing And Reconciliation

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 20, 2005, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that the Legislative Assembly resolve to formally observe May 26th as the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation in support of our communities, families and individuals who endured the impact of the residential school system.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 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 7, Personal Directives Act; and Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act; with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I will call committee to order. There are a number of things on our agenda today. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Committee would like to consider Bill 9 and Bill 3, in that order today. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Okay. We will resume with that after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Good afternoon, committee members. We can proceed now with Bill 9 from Friday. Mr. Minister, would you like to resume your seat?

Mr. Minister, would you like to bring in witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Mr. Minister, can you please introduce your staff.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Ms. Debbie DeLancey, deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs; Sheila Bassi-Kellet, director of corporate affairs for Municipal and Community Affairs; and Mara Heder, our legal counsel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): We are on general comments. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. When we recognized the clock, I was seeking just a bit more information on one aspect of administration, when it comes to unpaid bills, how and whether these bills -- they could be for services like unpaid water bills or even library fines or parking tickets -- would be put onto my tax bill. I wanted to know that before this transfer to my tax account happened, as a municipal taxpayer/resident, that I would have a chance to address any discrepancy in some kind of organized process. The question that I had is, whose job is it to ensure the taxpayer has a way to get these matters addressed? Is it within the municipality's responsibility, or is it a territorial government responsibility that due process is available to me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, the basis for the amendments to this legislation is to empower the communities to give them the ability to do a number of things; in this case, the transfer of unpaid charges to property taxes. We would expect that the municipality would notify the client that they are in arrears of any type of service, and I am sure that that is the practice that is in place now.

However, in a case where there are unpaid charges that may be lingering for some time, the municipality will have the ability to transfer to the individual's property taxes, and there is no real legal notification process in place to notify the individual that this will be taking place.

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

MR. BRADEN: Okay. Can the Minister or his staff tell us, has this been an issue in the past? Have we had residents complain to us that they haven't had an

opportunity to be heard, and that maybe due process was maybe a little rough on them? I am just trying to gauge, is this something that we should pursue, or is this something that is really inconsequential? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this legislation was in place historically. When we redrafted the municipal legislation that was adopted in the 14th Assembly, somehow it was omitted; this change was not included. This has been there for some time. Since the 70s, most of the municipal taxation authorities have had this option of transferring unpaid charges to property taxes. We have not, as a department, received any complaints about this whole exercise of being able to transfer property taxes.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister McLeod. General comments. Okay, Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 9 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Bill 9 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Minister McLeod and your staff. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he will escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, I direct your attention now to Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. I will ask the Minister of Justice if he has opening comments. Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: I do. Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I am pleased to introduce Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This legislation will make minor amendments to clarify the definition of "employee," and to provide greater certainty regarding the responsibility of public bodies and their employees to protect personal information.

Madam Chair, the request originated with the Department of Health and Social Services. They have identified the need for contractors to be included in NWT privacy legislation, specifically information technology contractors who access private information as part of their work. The Department of Justice has confirmed the need for this amendment.

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act strikes a balance between the need to protect privacy and the need for open, accountable government. Employees are currently prohibited from disclosing personal information without authorization. This amendment will broaden the definition of "employee" to include appointees, volunteers and students. The expanded definition only applies under this act, and will also include people who perform services under contracts and agency relationships.

The proposed amendments strengthen the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and are consistent with recent recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. They also support the government's commitment to providing open, accessible and accountable government to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Madam Chair, I would be pleased to answer any questions or concerns the committee may have on this legislation. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Bell. At this time, I will ask Ms. Lee, the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, if she would please deliver the comments on the review by the committee. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the Standing Committee on Social Programs met to review Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, on June 20th and October 11, 2005, in Yellowknife; on June 22nd in Fort Smith; on June 25th in Hay River; and on June 27th in Fort Resolution.

The committee would like to thank the Minister and all the witnesses who spoke on the bill. The committee heard concerns about Bill 3 from one witness, Ms. Arlene Hache from the Centre for Northern Families. Ms. Hache expressed concerns that the bill would have the effect of defining her, and her organization, as GNWT employees. The committee was satisfied by its subsequent discussions with the Minister that the act will not have this effect beyond requiring the protection of the confidentiality of personal information that the centre may receive in the course of performing services for a public body, such as a health and social services authority or a GNWT department.

Ms. Hache's second concern was with the government's position that it owns some information in their client files, pursuant to contribution agreements. In Ms. Hache's opinion, the government should not see itself as the sole keeper of confidentiality. As she explained to us, some of her clients do not want their information shared with the GNWT, and they should be entitled to access services confidentially. While this issue is outside the scope of Bill 3, the committee did have some preliminary discussion with the Minister and intends to follow up once it receives more information.

Madam Chair, it became apparent to the committee, through its public hearing process, that the effect of the proposed amendments may not be well understood by some individuals and organizations that will now have a duty, under the act, to protect personal information. The committee would, therefore, encourage all public bodies to ensure they communicate responsibilities clearly in

contracts and contribution agreements, and when employing volunteers, appointees and students.

Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 3 to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 3. Individual committee members may have questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in witnesses.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Then I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the Minister's witnesses to the witness table.

Minister Bell, for the record, would you please introduce your witnesses? Minister Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you. With me today are Glen Rutland and Janice Laycock from the Department of Justice.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. If the Minister would like to correct the introduction for the record. Minister Bell, could you please, for the record, just clarify the introduction of your witnesses.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you. I guess that was a practice run. We've got Janis Cooper and Glen Rutland from the Department of Justice with me today. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Bell. Are there any general comments? Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a couple of questions to put on record of some of the concerns and questions of clarifications that came up during our committee process. One is, I would like to ask the Minister and his staff if they could give one example or situation that symbolizes the need for having this legislation. Why was there a need to include volunteers and students in the definition of employee? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you. As I've indicated, the request came from the Department of Health and Social Services. They were dealing with IT contractors, and recognized that, in terms of protection of privacy, those IT contractors wouldn't be held to the same standard as GNWT employees. So there was a need to revisit the definition of employee, and sufficiently broaden that to make sure that it captured at least this aspect of contracting. It does that now, as well.

Also, the Department of Justice analyzed the definition, and suggested that it should also be broadened to include those who are appointed; or are volunteers; or students; in terms of summer students, those working for the

government or a government agency and public body, as the test in the act, to ensure that no employees unknowingly disclosed information that should be protected and is of a private nature. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Bell. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. My second question has to do with something that's mentioned in our committee report, and it has to do with the presentation made by Ms. Hache. We had a really good debate and discussions about this during the public hearing process, and the question she had was whether or not she, or any other NGOs, would be obliged to give confidential information to bodies like Yellowknife Health Authority or groups like hers who enter into a lot of contracts. She had a fear of sort of being blended in with the rest of the government apparatus, and, thereby, being required to provide information that she would not want to otherwise. We concluded that it was outside of the scope of this legislation, but the Minister did commit to providing us with further information and further qualification on that. I'd like to give him the opportunities to put that answer on the record here. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you. There was some concern raised in the public meeting around this issue, and I think that we specifically agreed that it probably comes from the term "agency relationship." Just to clarify, if the government is providing a contribution or is a funder to an agency like the one we were discussing, then there would be this funding relationship, which wouldn't necessarily stipulate that the information gathered by that group would come back to government. That would all be laid out in terms of the contribution and the expectation. However, if an agency is delivering a program on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories or a board -- so, essentially, our program -- there may be some expectations that that information, obviously, would be shared with government; but that is laid out in the contract. In terms of the delivery of that contract, it would be very clearly stipulated that there were certain expectations under access to information. In those requirements, there would be a section in the contract which would lay out exactly what the expectation was of the other party. So I don't think there's anything new here that changes that relationship and would give additional concern. This provision in the contract would be very clearly laid out as it is now, and I don't think that this changes that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Bell. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't think it's as clear as the Minister says. I agree with the purpose of this legislation in including and widening the group of people who will be subject to the protection of privacy requirements, because we know that governments gather a lot of information; and their agents, and their contractors, casual employees and students that government hires and government agents hire, if they come across personal information that's sensitive, I think it's only right that we require them to not reveal that. They should be advised of that. That makes sense to me.

I think the question here is how broad is this umbrella, and does an agency like the Centre for Northern Families fit into that umbrella? I think that depends on the nature of the contract, the programs they provide and whatever else, but if the intention of this legislation is to broaden that reach as much as possible, then it is quite possible that a group like an NGO or agency like the Centre for Northern Families could come within that parameter. Even if it is remote, it is possible, and I think this legislation makes it more so than before this legislation came into place. The Minister is saying that it will just be the same as it is now because if it were, then why would we have this legislation? So I have to disagree with the Minister on that. I think the way to fix it is to make it very clear in a contract. I just want to make it doubly clear, in light of this new legislation we're putting into place.

That takes me to my next question to the Minister, and that is whether or not the government will take any steps to inform various parts of the government body, because we know that the GNWT as a whole machine has all sorts of parts all over the place. We get into thousands of contracts on any given day, and somebody has to tell these contractors that they are going to be required now, under this legislation, to protect the information, and whether or not that involves requiring an agency to reveal information or not. I don't think it does, but in the event that it does, I think it's better to be clearly laying out that requirement, and the extent of the obligation, just to be on the safe side. So I would like to know from the Minister, as Minister of Justice passing new law, if he could undertake to put that safety provision there, sort of take the steps to get everybody informed about it.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think it's a good point, and I think it is something that's necessary. We will make sure that copies of the access and privacy policy and guidelines manual are sent to access and privacy coordinators, and also to contacts, the relevant contacts of NWT boards, which are subject to the act once the amendment is passed.

I guess the other point I should make is, we have scheduled some training for the end of October with the various different agencies that would be affected if this amendment is passed.

Just to respond further and clarify, in my earlier response what I really should have indicated is that so much of this hinges on the nature of the contract. The Department of Justice, for instance, has a contract with the YWCA. In that contract, we very clearly stipulate what information they come upon or are collecting, they have to report back to us. I don't have the Department of Health contract in front of me for the Centre for Northern Families, but I would assume that it is the same and does the same. So I don't think there is anything here, any change we are making in this amendment, that changes the contracting relationship between the Centre for Northern Families and the Department of Health or the Y and ourselves. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to do one follow-up on that, and that is, I don't think we can

assume that the contract that the Department of Health might have with the Centre for Northern Families or a women's shelter will be the same as the YWCA providing a contract under protection against violence legislation. The government may enter into contracts where the core part of that contract is to reveal personal information. Then you may get into another contract where the personal information about somebody is completely irrelevant to the carrying out of that contract. When you consider how many contracts government gets into, it could be to build a road or to do a training course in the Housing Corporation on how to buy a home -- there are millions of contracts. I believe very strongly that, given this legislation now, I think it should be clearly laid out there. When the government is giving out a contract to whomever, you have to lay out whether you want that information or not. I think that's the extent of the information you are looking for. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: I agree with the Member. I would say we have contacted the Department of Health, and they have indicated to us that there is a contact who would be responsible for contribution agreements in the department.

They are responsible for spelling out the deliverables in those contracts and all the contribution agreements, the same way the Department of Justice does. Periodically, they request a report on the project initiative results. So my understanding is that that is very clearly laid out and stipulated in these contracts. If there are contracting issues with individual departments where this isn't laid out clearly enough, then that's something we can look to deal with and address, and that's a discussion I can have with my Cabinet colleagues. It is outside the amendment that we are speaking to here today, but I take the Member's point. It's a good one.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): We will now refer to a clause-by-clause review of the bill. Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree that Bill 3 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Bill 3 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Minister Bell, Ms. Cooper, and Mr. Rutland for attending. Thank you.

What is the wish of the committee now that we have dealt with Bill 3 and Bill 9? Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. The motion is in order. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, and Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and would like to report that Bill 9 and Bill 3 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins. 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 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 19, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.:

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

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motion

15. Notices of Motion 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

- Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement

- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act

- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act

- Bill 7, Personal Directives Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

- Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 19, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:08 p.m.

