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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, October 19, 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. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. For the information of Members, languages in the House today are Inuktitut and Tlicho. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 42-15(4): National Foster Family Week**

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in honour of National Foster Family Week, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the enormous contributions of foster families toward the healthy growth and development of our most precious resource: our children and youth.

---Applause

Foster families are an important part of the system of services that care for our children. Their work goes beyond providing children with food and shelter. These families give children a safe and nurturing home environment while also caring for their educational, medical and developmental needs.

Today's foster parent is a key member of a team of people dedicated to helping children and youth. Working with child protection workers, mental health professionals, teachers and the community as a whole, foster parents provide children and youth with a safe and healthy environment designed to meet their health, developmental, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs.

The NWT has a proud and committed group of foster families who open their hearts and homes to children and youth. Last year, there were approximately 450 foster homes in the Northwest Territories. This includes approximately 190 regular foster homes, 170 extended family foster homes, and 90 provisional foster homes. These homes provided much needed services to 1,035 children during the course of the year.

However, Mr. Speaker, we continue to need more foster families in our communities. Having enough homes is crucial to matching children and youth with families based on the child's needs and cultural identity. We need to recruit new families, as there are still some children who need a caring and supportive home environment.

In an effort to continually improve the system, and to improve the ability to recruit and retain qualified foster care homes, the Department of Health and Social Services, in consultation with the regional authority

directors of social programs, will be conducting two major reviews in the upcoming months. An in-depth review of the current foster care and adoption practice standards will be completed by March 2006. As well, review and recommendations with respect to standardization of foster care rates will be completed by December 2005.

On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I wish to thank all the foster families in the NWT for their continued support, strength and, most importantly, willingness to care for the children and youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 43-15(4): NWT Recreation And Parks Association Trail Building Fund

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, this past July, I was pleased to announce an agreement with the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association to provide financial support for a new Recreation Trail Building Program for our communities.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has committed \$500,000 over the next five years to this program. This investment will then be combined with \$160,000 in funding from the Trans Canada Trail Foundation to create a fund of \$660,000.

Local trails in communities provide many benefits. For the residents, trails provide low cost recreation facilities that all residents can use for a variety of activities, including walking, biking, skiing and running. They are attractive to residents of all ages and can be used year round. Trails also help to support the tourism industry by providing an attraction to visitors. For communities, trails are a great facility option since they are less expensive to maintain than other types of recreation facilities.

Mr. Speaker, we share a vision with the NWT Recreation and Parks Association that all communities in the Northwest Territories will soon have attractive, multi-use trails for their residents.

It is important that we provide this type of infrastructure. This past year, the government launched a very successful Get Active NWT campaign that saw more than 15 percent of the territory's population take up the challenge to increase their physical activity. By supporting the development of safe, accessible facilities, we hope to encourage more people to get active.

In the coming years, as more trails are developed, we expect that campaigns like Get Active NWT will indicate higher rates of physical activity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize our partner in this program, the NWT Recreation and Parks Association, the official organization of the Trans Canada Trail in the Northwest Territories. This past year, they launched an ambitious new initiative that saw a local author, Mr. Jamie Bastedo, travel the entire length of the Trans Canada Trail in the Northwest Territories. The purpose of his trip was to conduct research for a guidebook that he is writing on the NWT portion of the Trans Canada Trail.

When this resource is complete, it will be an aid for any person traveling the trail, and help promote tourism by providing information about the amenities available in our communities.

The NWT Recreation and Parks Association has also been an active supporter of the Get Active NWT campaign, and is a leader and champion of active living in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Minister's Statement 44-15(4): Review Of The NWT Liquor Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the NWT Liquor Act has been in place since the early 1980s and has not seen a substantive review in over a decade. The NWT has seen many changes since then, including division in 1999, a rapidly growing economy, and the advent of aboriginal self-government, among others. There have been numerous calls, including in this House, for a review that will identify ways to improve our liquor legislation by making it more flexible and adaptable to the needs and priorities of NWT residents.

This review began earlier this year. The public consultation process began this summer, and I am pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that it has gone well. We have developed a discussion guide that summarizes the issues in the review, which also has been used as the basis for our consultation. The guide was mailed out this summer across the NWT to community governments, non-government organizations, and other stakeholders and interested groups with requests for comments. A web site was developed to provide a forum for distributing information, and for individuals to use to provide input and comment. In addition, meetings were held with the Liquor Licensing Board, the RCMP, liquor inspectors, and other government institutions responsible for enforcing the Liquor Act. Separate meetings were held with liquor licensees in some NWT communities.

Community meetings were held in September in nine communities across the NWT. These were: Hay River, Inuvik, Fort McPherson, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, and Behchoko. In order to ensure that the process allowed for input from all communities, following a suggestion from the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, funding was provided to bring two representatives from other

communities to attend the public meeting in the nearest community. Although the public meetings are now complete, NWT residents have until October 31, 2005, to submit their comments on the Liquor Act in writing to the Department of Finance, or online at the Department of Finance web site, by following the link to the Liquor Act review.

Mr. Speaker, we expect to receive the consultant's report in December, which will be made public. We are targeting introduction of the bill in the Legislative Assembly by late 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members of the Legislative Assembly, and their staff, for the invaluable help they provided in coordinating the consultation visits. I would also like to thank those NWT residents who have provided their comments so far on changes to the Liquor Act, and I encourage everyone who has an interest in this matter to provide their input. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. 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 Fair Distribution Of Government Resources

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about something that I have brought up in this House many times before. That is the fair distribution of government jobs, capital infrastructure, and programs and services.

The NWT has a very heated economy at this time, and most of this is manifested here in the capital, Yellowknife. Most of this activity is driven by the private sector, and much of it is related to resource development. Yellowknife has been able to capitalize greatly on the addition of diamond minds, and I say good for them.

What I am concerned about is the growth related to government activity. When Hay River and Fort Smith worked hard for a little support from the GNWT, with the leverage that they had with loan guarantees, training dollars and their international jet-setting diamond secretariat, to see some of the cutting and polishing in our communities, we got nothing. When Hay River proved that we could easily accommodate the expansion of Correction Services at a cost much lower than that being proposed in Yellowknife, we got nothing. The \$50 million jail came to Yellowknife, so it follows now that we need to build a \$41 million courthouse to go with that jail.

When other communities put forward proposals for the new Business Development Investment Corporation headquarters, we got nothing. When the new human rights office was planned, communities like Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik put forward proposals, and we got nothing.

There have been good economic arguments put forward for years from other communities to absorb some of the expansion created by new and improved government

infrastructure and services, but decisions were obviously made on the basis of politics. When the Dene K'onia Young Offender Facility was shut down last year, sending our long-term, highly qualified staff in all directions in search of jobs, sending our youth from the South Slave to Yellowknife, we got nothing. Sure, the numbers were temporarily down, but everyone in Justice knew that those numbers were going to climb back up again, under the new Youth Justice Act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recite the number of political decisions that have resulted in lost opportunities for our regions, outside of Yellowknife, to become more viable, but a Member's statement wouldn't allow enough time for that long list. We need more political decisions that will show a government and Ministers with enough backbone to say that we have a responsibility where possible and where efficiently we need to locate government infrastructure and services in the communities.

If the WCB headquarters is looking for waterfront property for a new corporate office, Hay River has beautiful waterfront property available right downtown. If the NWT Housing Corporation is going to be reprofiled and downsized, I am sure that Fort Smith or Inuvik would be happy to step up to the plate. Let's...

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Groenewegen, your time for your Members' statement has expired.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable 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, and thank you, colleagues. Let's get back to the kind of thinking that saw things like Arctic College campuses in Inuvik and Fort Smith, and NWT Library Services and the Power Corporation in Hay River, to name a few examples. This is a government of the Northwest Territories, not the government of Yellowknife, and it is time that the regions got together and said enough is enough. We are politicians, so let's get political. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Relocation Of Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last spring the Minister of Health and Social Services stoically stood up in this House and defended the government's decision to relocate the Territorial Treatment Centre from Yellowknife to Hay River. The Yellowknife MLAs, and other Regular Members, waited patiently while the department scrambled to cobble together whatever information they had to base this decision on. What we received from the Minister was information that, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, was either never read by Cabinet, or was completely disregarded in favour of moving this program out of Yellowknife.

The government also did not appreciate the fact that I was questioning them on whether or not they had even followed their own rules, as set out in the Financial Administration Manual. No consultation took place with Regular Members; we didn't see any business case. All we saw were capital dollars being funnelled out of this TTC program in Yellowknife to a completely different community. Of course, the government was adamant that every rule in the book was followed, Mr. Speaker, and that they did not violate the spirit and intent of their duty and obligation to consult Regular Members.

Mr. Speaker, I find it very ironic that this government is now proposing substantive provisions to that same FAM directive that was the focal point of my concerns back in June. Coincidence? I don't think so, Mr. Speaker.

I have come across a piece of correspondence, yesterday, between the deputy minister of Health and the Minister's office, dated May of last year, wherein the DM states, quite obviously, that the decision to move the TTC from Yellowknife to Hay River was one solely for political motives, not bureaucratic ones. Mr. Speaker, this is the smoking gun that has finally been unearthed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table that document at the appropriate time today. Why would the government take a program which has been highly successful, and rip its heart out solely for political gain? The government did not stop for a second and listen to its own departmental staff, experts, employees, MLAs, or anyone that could easily prove to them that this was not a good decision. Even the Minister's deputy could not defend the decision with any semblance of a proper business case.

How are we, as Regular Members, and the public, going to be able to trust Cabinet decisions now, knowing that they really do not need to have any rhyme nor reason before they make a decision? They just go ahead and do it. Who pays the price, Mr. Speaker? In this instance, it's the employees, support networks and the children that utilize the TTC.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to tell this House enough, how disappointed and dismayed I am over the actions of the Minister and this government on the issue of the relocation of the TTC. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable 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. Mr. Speaker, this Cabinet should be absolutely ashamed of themselves, and I will be asking the government today to finally stand up and admit that this decision was based solely on political motives, and to put an immediate stop to the transfer of this vital piece of service and programming here in Yellowknife, out of the capital city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Hiring Practices Of Diamond Mines

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise more public awareness, and the government's awareness, on some of the hiring practices of the three diamond mines operating in the Akaitcho Territory: BHP, Diavik and De Beers.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that there has been a rise in local aboriginal employment levels in my constituency, but, unfortunately, there are still many northerners that are not being considered for employment in the mines, because of age, low education levels, or past criminal records.

Mr. Speaker, I can understand the reasons to not hire because of age or educational levels, but to not hire someone who is qualified based solely on their past criminal records should have some limitations.

For example, I have constituents who were employed in the mining industry for extended periods of time; three to four years, Mr. Speaker. They have not missed work, were never late, and were considered good, reliable workers, only to be informed that they can no longer be employed because the company managed to dig up some old criminal records. I say "old," because some of these records are dating back 10, 15, even 20 years, Mr. Speaker.

Many infractions are not even related to criminal activity one might find in a mine, such as theft, forgery or fraud. The mines are directing these persons to apply for pardons from the federal government, to have their criminal records cleared, and then they will be reconsidered for employment, with no guarantees.

Mr. Speaker, the process of applying and receiving, or not receiving, a federal pardon on long past criminal records in order to clear one's name, takes 18 to 24 months at best, with no guarantees of having their slates wiped clean. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see some other mechanisms, like an independent body, supported by this government, to review these and other personnel issues, and to ensure people who are being laid off or let go for reasons beyond their comprehension have been treated in a fair and equitable manner; a body that will monitor and oversee that the socioeconomic agreements that we have with the mining industries are actually being adhered to and strengthened to provide northerners, all northerners, Mr. Speaker, from the Delta to the South Slave, with the confidence that they are on the top of the list for the potential employment opportunities in the mines, before the companies look south. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this is not the case today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Restrictions On Caribou Harvesting

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, today I speak to the question that was raised this week by my colleague from the Sahtu regarding the numbers associated with the decline of the caribou herds.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to speak specifically about the results of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources survey, but I will address the issue around expecting restrictions that are to be imposed next year on these herds, and the need to involve the Tlicho.

Mr. Speaker, although the Tlicho chiefs think that the numbers in the survey are reasonable, they strongly disagree with the department putting any restriction or birth terms of reference that will impose on any action against the aboriginal harvesters. I am sure the sentiment is echoed among all the Dene, the Metis, the Inuvialuit, and subsistence harvesters in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, although it is understood that the caribou declines are due to natural population cycles, the department is saying that they will be meeting with the co-management boards for the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and the Sahtu areas to discuss what implications there are for harvesters. However, the Tlicho has not been drawn into this process.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources has confirmed that his department is committed to working with the co-management boards, and traditional knowledge and resources, getting the numbers of these caribou herds, even though the process will calculate the caribou population is in decline, and using the satellite collars to get the information as correct as possible. The Tlicho leaders are insisting on the recount, and they want to be involved as part of this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Locked Out Liard Ferry Workers

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to discuss an issue that Nahendeh is currently going through. That is the Liard ferry dispute on the Liard River crossing at Fort Simpson. I would like to take this time to thank all the residents and businesses that have taken the time to express their concerns and complaints with me in writing. I recognize that this is a tense and emotionally charged time, and we all want the ferry dispute resolved as soon as possible.

Throughout the past 10 days, I have addressed the Nahendeh concerns about the ferry situation with our government and the respective Ministers. I have also researched similar situations in other regions and provinces. Although every situation is different, in general, a negotiated solution is the best solution, one that does not involve government intervention. Our government is taking an arm's length approach. This is a decision that is not easily understood by the residents of Nahendeh. I also regret that the new mediator has not yet had an opportunity to meet with both parties. In the meantime, I continue to press with our respective Ministers, and to appeal to the Canadian industrial board, the decision that the ferry is not an essential service.

In our small and remote communities, transportation links such as the ferry are very essential. The situation is affecting all of the residents of Fort Simpson; the workers

and employers are struggling with all aspects financially, personally and socially. Some people had to cross the picket lines, even though they are in support of the workers. These decisions cause tension and are polarizing the community.

During the last week of August, the Accountability and Oversight committee, for the first time, travelled to several communities to hear what people had to say about community concerns and government spending. Accessibility and affordability of living costs recurred over and over. This disruption is compounding these concerns, if not resolved quickly. Above all, Mr. Speaker, I would urge all parties involved to remain calm during this especially challenging time.

Once again, the best solution in this very difficult time is a negotiated solution. We must be supportive, and yet patient. We must also ensure that the safety of all is important and foremost in our...

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

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

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I will just conclude and state that safety is considered foremost in our minds as we deal with this especially tense time. Thank you very much.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Helping The Youth Of Our Communities

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, Dennis Waitley once said, "The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence." Mr. Speaker, the youth are crying out for help, telling us to listen, telling us that we, as adults, are not paying attention to them. We are still hoping that the youth issues will go away and we will continue on with life, and that it is their problem and blame it on them. We, as parents, who elect officials, have a huge responsibility to guide our youth into independence. Why is it that only when the youth get media attention for crimes committed, vandalism, or take part in any anti-social behaviour, we begin to discuss youth issues? Yet, I read in newspapers that our youth in larger centres are entering into national and international events and sports that youth in the smaller communities can only dream of unless we can bring back the test program that was once truly successful in Inuvik in the 1960s that combined the schools in after-school activities.

Mr. Speaker, we have a huge population of youth in the North. Mr. Speaker, in the Sahtu region, we have a high percentage of youth in our communities. We, as leaders and members in positions of authority, have to provide

basic tools and skills to give our youth the responsibilities for their choices in life. Mr. Speaker, research shows us that there are far-reaching negative effects of leaving children and teens unsupervised after school, and that children exposed to inadequate care are more susceptible to peer pressure and negative influence than those who receive structured and supervised care. It is obvious that there is a need for youth after-school programs in all of our communities in the Northwest Territories. However, the need is more apparent in smaller communities because of lack of facilities, resources and NGOs involved in providing after-school extracurricular programming.

Mr. Speaker, it shocks me to hear that this government is considering building a brand-new building along some nice walking trails for WCB. Mr. Speaker, how can this take place? The needs of our residents will be better met by providing adequate facilities and resources for after-school programs. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to take a serious look at where its priorities lie and, more importantly, where they should be. We must provide opportunities for those children that are in desperate need of our attention. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We now have even more proof that the old considered plan to relocate the Territorial Treatment Centre was purely politically motivated. Shame on this government, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

The revelation about the TTC issue given to this House today by Mr. Ramsay is striking proof of nothing short of betrayal by this government; in fact, a series of betrayals, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, and most damning, is that this is a betrayal of the children, their families, the staff of the Territorial Treatment Centre, and many others across the community of Yellowknife. The department, the Minister, indeed the whole Cabinet, betrayed these people's trust in us to continue delivering the program they need so much in a community that has worked so hard for so long to make it available. Mr. Speaker, the evidence is overwhelming. The integrity and sustainability of the care of these kids with deep emotional and behavioural problems would be badly impaired, perhaps irreversibly, by this move.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, this is a betrayal of a trust we MLAs must have in our Ministers and our Cabinet. We are trying to represent our communities, and our constituents, to the best of our ability every day. How can we do that when Ministers and Cabinet so blatantly and arrogantly disabuse the trust and the process conventions we must rely on?

Thirdly, it is a betrayal of what we stand for in this Legislative Assembly consensus. Over a year ago, through our regular process of consensus, we reached an agreement to fund \$2.4 million for a much needed renovation to the TTC here in Yellowknife. Then, behind

our backs, this government deferred that project; decided to relocate it to another community; added another million dollars to the cost; and threw the work of 15 years of community cooperation and dedication out the window. A betrayal all for political reasons. But unlike the reputation of this government at this point, Mr. Speaker, this project can be salvaged. It requires the immediate reversal of the decision to relocate, and the immediate re-instatement of the renovations to the TTC. That is all. It is simple. That must be the next step, and it must be immediate. Enough politicizing the welfare of the children. For the children, Mr. Speaker...

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

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

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

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, enough politicizing the welfare of the children. For the children, Mr. Speaker, let's get back to caring and trustworthiness in this government. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Political Decisions Of Government

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about decisions that are made by this government. Some decisions, Mr. Speaker, that are made seem to be purely political, and don't make much sense even to a newcomer to this Assembly like myself. Decisions, Mr. Speaker, like putting a pipeline office in a community that...

---Laughter

...putting a pipeline office in Hay River when all the anchor fields and everything are up in the Beaufort-Delta, and without these anchor fields, there would be no need for a pipeline office or a pipeline. Decisions, Mr. Speaker, like closing down Dene K'onia and the remand centre in Hay River, because they built a fancy, new jail here in Yellowknife and they have to justify building it. Decisions, Mr. Speaker, like moving the TTC out of Yellowknife, where most of the support services are needed.

I am all for decentralization, Mr. Speaker, but some services, I agree, need to stay. There are decisions like entering into negotiated contracts, and sole sourcing, while contractors that don't have anybody to lobby on their behalf are left out in the cold. Mr. Speaker, if the government wants to make some good quality business decisions, then move the offices for student financial services to the regions where they best help the people that they serve.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MCLEOD: In the past, Mr. Speaker, I have heard many comments from Members, that are now Ministers, when they were on this side of the House. Now they are in positions where they can affect some of these decisions. So I think now is the time for them to practice what they used to preach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with my colleagues with a statement in regards to the relocation of the Territorial Treatment Centre. Finally my colleague has put it on the record that this is truly a political issue, so it is finally on the table. The clouds that have been bothering the facts are out, and now it is clear and as plain as day. The garbage has been moved, and the stinky decision has finally revealed itself. This is only a political shuffle, Mr. Speaker, so let's rise above cloudy principles and cloudy ethics. I say to the honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, do the right thing by leaving the TTC here in Yellowknife where it is working just fine.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, we all know that I support decentralization where it makes sense. I support that when we look at establishing new offices, new plans and whatnot, but not to rip out something that is the heart of the community, that has roots and flourished for many years. This is nothing but political two-stepping by this Minister, and it has to end. It is Cabinet putting Yellowknife against the communities, and Yellowknife against Hay River. Let's not fool ourselves. It is Cabinet that is driving this wedge here today, not the Yellowknife Members, Mr. Speaker. Again, let's not confuse the issue on this relocation. We know why it is happening, so I call this decision today obtuse. As a reminder to those who are wondering what that means, it truly means it is insensitive. So I call the Minister obtuse to this issue, obtuse to the communities, and I think it is time that we realize what is happening and we stop it. It is not based on principles of sound budget management. It is truly based on the principles of "Let's fill Dene K'onia." Why fool ourselves?

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we all know that the WCB is looking for a home. So while maybe we can offer WCB something, a fortified department, the walls of the former jail, rather than a family oriented centre that helps kids. If you are motivated to fill that centre, fill it with WCB. As I said, they are looking for a new office to work out of; there you go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Relocation of the Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have good people in the gallery and in the community who would like us to do the right thing by the Territorial Treatment Centre, Mr. Speaker, if is not for anything else but for one important reason, that being the well-being of the children who are being treated there, and for the well-being of the very fragile program being delivered at the TTC.

Mr. Speaker, it is the only intensive residential program for children with great emotional and behavioural problems in the NWT. Instead of building on the strength that we have at the TTC, the government has made a very careless reason, Mr. Speaker, to uproot it and move it to another community without any basis or any analysis of merit. The government has talked to no one, not the people who work there, not the parents of the children who live there, not the educators or support workers, or even pediatricians or child psychiatrists who provide the range of services so vital to the well-being and recovery of these children. No amount of common sense input that has been provided to the Cabinet or the Minister since the announcement made in the paper is doing anything to have the Minister and the government reconsider this decision.

Mr. Speaker, since the announcement of the move, the centre has seen a mass exodus of caring people who work there. This program is in danger of serious jeopardy well before the planned transfer in 2007. In the meantime, it is the children who will be the most adversely affected. I have to ask, what for? There could have been something good created to fill the Dene K'onia facility without destroying something good and fragile that was running at TTC for the children in need, Mr. Speaker. With some foresight, the government could have done something that could have maintained the TTC program in Yellowknife, and have something to be housed in Hay River, but the government did not. Now the children are the ones who are suffering from the political games being played in this Hall without regard to what really matters.

Children are the people we are supposed to be serving here, Mr. Speaker, and that is a real shame. Mr. Speaker, this is really turning into a big mess, especially in light of the new information that Mr. Ramsay has been able to find. I believe the Minister and the Cabinet have a chance to readdress this, stop and clean this up, Mr. Speaker, and undo the damage. Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister and the Cabinet have a chance to readdress this and undo the damage we have done to the program. I believe it is still not too late for the government to do something other than pitting one community against another or this Assembly breaking into Yellowknife versus all others in fistfights. I can get right into that, but I would rather not, Mr. Speaker. There are no winners in that game.

There can be a win-win outcome to this, Mr. Speaker. Everyone in the field knows this. There is a need for at least another children's program, if not more. Currently, the TTC is full. There are at least five children on the waiting list. We have enough children in need to keep TTC going, and have another facility in Dene K'onia, Hay River. We can keep TTC here and get up another program in Hay River or, if the government insists on moving it, we could have a program in Hay River but have another, or more modified, or more intense program, set up in Yellowknife. This does not require more money, because we know that we have children in the South who could be repatriated. We have children on the waiting list which I believe the government...

MR. SPEAKER: Could you conclude your statement, Ms. Lee?

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to be productive, and I want to give government a choice. I ask the government to do the right thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to recognize Morris and Marie Lafferty, both my parents are here.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize all the employees and concerned citizens that are in the gallery today with regard to the Territorial Treatment Centre issue, and three constituents I'd like to point out: Pat Doe and Pat and Carmel Sullivan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't see everybody from where I'm sitting, but I understand one of the groups in the gallery is my constituent Laura Johns, and everyone else from Territorial Treatment Centre. I'd like to welcome them to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my knowledge, I don't have a constituent in the gallery, but I will recognize...

---Laughter

...Charmaine McLeod, I believe that's Charles Dent's constituent, of the affected Territorial Treatment Centre that we've been talking about here earlier today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize three constituents: Leanne Liske, Anita Metcalfe, and Jim Lynn from Detah. I'd also like to recognize all of the Territorial Treatment Centre people, and the other parents who are here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to acknowledge and recognize everyone who's visiting us today from the Territorial Treatment Centre, especially my constituents Stephen Norn, and, Mr. Speaker, a very honoured former Member of the NWT Legislative Assembly, Lena Pedersen. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would also like to welcome everyone in the gallery today. If we've missed anybody there, welcome to the gallery. It's always nice to have an audience. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 160-15(4): National Foster Family Week

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it's with regard to National Foster Family Week, which is being recognized this week. Mr. Speaker. From time to time, children in our society require the temporary care of people who are not necessarily their family or their parents, and we rely on the services of families who will take these children into their home and look after them as if they were their own. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister knows, I was personally involved in an endeavour which saw me taking children into my home for a couple of years. Most of you probably can't imagine me with 10 children in tow, but that happened a lot, nine of them teenagers. For a couple of years, that was the case.

---Applause

I have to say that I found it to be one of the most challenging but most rewarding things that I've ever done in my variety of careers. But one of the obstacles, as I see it, to encouraging more families to opening their homes, is the remuneration that foster families receive for caring for these children. I understand right now the rate may be in

the neighbourhood of \$25 a day, but I was wondering if the Minister could confirm the rate for me. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 160-15(4): National Foster Family Week

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the range of foster care rates goes from about \$24 a day up to as high as \$118 a day, depending on the individual child. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 160-15(4): National Foster Family Week

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then that being the case, I would say that the minimum rate of \$24 a day for a child that wouldn't have any special needs or special medical needs has been in place for quite some time now. When's the last time that these rates were reviewed? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 160-15(4): National Foster Family Week

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in point of fact, they're under review as we speak, and I expect to have that document available for my consideration by the end of December to address a number of issues, one of them being the adequacy. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 160-15(4): National Foster Family Week

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the people who undertake this labour of love are not in it for the money, however, I think it shows respect to them, and to the care of the children, that people be adequately remunerated. When Mr. Miltenberger looks at the rates being paid for foster parents, will that incorporate recognition of training which may be available to foster parents through different associations? Would that be recognized in the type of child they could take in, and the pay that they would receive for that care? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 160-15(4): National Foster Family Week

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the review of the rates will deal mainly with the cost and the per diem rates, but we're also doing, as I indicated in my statement earlier today, a review of practice standards and requirements, and in that component of the review, there will be closer attention

paid to the criteria and the training requirements, as well, of foster parents. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 160-15(4): National Foster Family Week

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is, with the tools that we equip foster parents to have in their possession in order to deal with foster children, is there a formal training program at this time in the Northwest Territories that accredits homes to look after children with different types of needs? Is there a formal training and accreditation system in place at this time? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 160-15(4): National Foster Family Week

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a training program in place. I'd like to commend the work of the Yellowknife Foster Care Association that has a very good training component. We also have an application process where we review the criteria of the folks who are applying to be foster parents. The training that is in place in Yellowknife, we are trying to make accessible to all foster parents across the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. At this time I'd like to draw the Members' attention to the gallery and the presence of a former Member of the House, Mr. Vince Steen.

---Applause

Also, former Member Lena Pedersen is in the gallery as well today.

---Applause

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

Question 161-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Speaker, I've always known, it was quite obvious to me that the decision to relocate the Territorial Treatment Centre to Hay River from Yellowknife was a politically motivated decision and, you know, now that I do have some proof that that was the case, I want to ask the Minister if the Department of Health and Social Services is dead set on renovating Dene K'onia and moving the Territorial Treatment Centre there, and why haven't they looked at putting another program into Dene K'onia and leaving the Territorial Treatment Centre here in Yellowknife alone? It's a program that works. There's a track record there. It absolutely works, and what we're doing here is gutting a program and trying to move it to another community. It's completely backwards, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like the Minister to answer that question. Why can't we just establish another program at Dene K'onia? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 161-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the decision has been made to relocate the Territorial Treatment Centre and we're proceeding with that decision. At the same time, we continue to look at ways we can provide better service in the North for the children and youth in the Northwest Territories. That work is in progress, but, at present, the decision has been made and that's what we're acting on. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 161-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, what exactly is he basing this decision on. What information did Cabinet have when they made the decision to relocate this facility from Yellowknife to Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 161-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there were a number of considerations in this decision. The fact that it was cost neutral, there was already money in the capital budget that could be used to upgrade Dene K'onia; the fact that there was a facility; the fact that it's a program that could be delivered outside of Yellowknife and that there was an opportunity to do that. Those are some of the key factors that were involved in that decision. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 161-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister says that it would be cost neutral. He hasn't been able to present to me, or other colleagues on this side of the House, the proof that it would be cost neutral and the proof that the services will be available in this other community to allow the clients there the service that they require. I'd like to ask the Minister to provide the proof. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 161-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we can provide, once again, the estimates to do the renovations. The fact is the program and cost of living and the cost of operation in Hay River versus Yellowknife are there and evident and that we

haven't put any more money in the budget for the program costs. From that perspective, we see it as cost neutral. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 161-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've heard from other Members on this side of the House that the Minister has some issues with Hay River and the access to doctors in Hay River. People are actually having to stand outside to wait to get an appointment. What are the children that are going to have to relocate to the new Territorial Treatment Centre in Hay River going to have to do? Are they going to have to stand outside and wait for a doctor's appointment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 161-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are resources there that are required to run this program. If one were to use the Member's rationale, we would be shutting down all the communities where we don't have nurses and every community that suffers a doctor shortage. Were we not going to have services or people there, then very truly we would all move to Yellowknife, and where we have doctor shortages in Yellowknife, we'd all end up living in Edmonton. We have a commitment to a strong Northwest Territories with a good solid representation of communities in every region, and we're committed to working with all the regions to, in fact, provide service delivery. The reality is, services can be delivered outside of Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

Question 162-15(4): Caribou Herd Management

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement, I would like to focus on a recount of satellite collars for caribou. This is a question to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Does the Minister expect that there will be financial implications to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a result of management actions taken, and how will they impact future community consultations? Mahsi.

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

Return To Question 162-15(4): Caribou Herd Management

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have come out with some initial survey results that indicate that there is a decline in the caribou herds: the Cape Bathurst, the Bluenose East, the Bluenose West, and the Bathurst, though the Bathurst numbers are somewhat dated. We are focusing, at

present, in consultation on the three herds in the North: the Cape Bathurst, the Bluenose East and the Bluenose West. We're still in the consultation phase with the co-management boards, and we are waiting to hear what their recommendation and advice is, and I anticipate that we will have that information available before the end of November, and then we should be in a position to determine what the next steps will be. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 162-15(4): Caribou Herd Management

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Bluenose East consists of Tlicho communities where they harvest caribou for part of traditional harvesting. Will the Minister commit to working with Tlicho, involve them to help conduct a recount of these herds and ongoing population studies? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 162-15(4): Caribou Herd Management

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to give the Member my assurance that we're going to consult with all the aboriginal governments. In the Tlicho region, the board is currently being set up. As soon as the board is set up, they will be fully engaged in this process, and we'll be doing all the required and appropriate consultation. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 162-15(4): Caribou Herd Management

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering when the department is willing to sit down with the Tlicho and develop a plan to have a recount on these herds. Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 162-15(4): Caribou Herd Management

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it sounds like the Member and I are developing a list of wildlife issues with bison and caribou, but I would, once again, be happy to sit down and make arrangements, as we speak. Officials are going to take notice that we should be consulting fully with the Tlicho Government, as well, as we look at getting recommendations and advice as it pertains to the Bluenose East herd. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 162-15(4): Caribou Herd Management

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just reflecting on the survey that's been done, there is one quote in there where aboriginal harvesters, in particular, may not be agreeable to limitations on their harvesting rights. My final question to the Minister would be, can the Minister tell this Assembly what implications there will be for the aboriginal subsistence harvester as a result of actions and restrictions his department is planning to impose next year? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 162-15(4): Caribou Herd Management

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the process of how we do business is clear, and if it's not clear, let me just restate it for this House, that we are working in cooperation with the co-management boards and the aboriginal governments across the Northwest Territories to deal with this very fundamental issue. They will offer and give recommendations and advice on this issue and will send it to me, as Minister. Then I will look at all that information, and I will try to make the appropriate determination, based on all the advice and recommendations coming from the various co-management boards and aboriginal governments, as to next steps. This will not be an arbitrary decision of the Government of the Northwest Territories. It will be done in full cooperation and collaboration. Thank you.

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

Question 163-15(4): Active Living Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this time and age, we do need some strong, powerful decisions in our vision for the Northwest Territories on the question of Territorial Treatment Centre and other types of facilities that are used as a last resort for young children and youth who have more serious issues to deal with. I want to focus on prevention, the prevention in our communities with regard to the children. I want to ask the Minister, can the Minister of Health and Social Services inform me if his department provides programs that offer healthy alternatives for youth for after-school programs? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 163-15(4): Active Living Programs

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government, and especially the social envelope Ministers, we are working cooperatively on the issues that my colleague has referenced. Health and Social Services has put a lot of time and effort into active living, working with MACA on get fit, on the no smoking, on the tobacco, on the alcohol, not drinking. The schools are working on looking at the

physical education programs that are currently offered. Municipal and Community Affairs and the Minister responsible for Youth have come up with the Northern Games, and they're looking at ways to work with communities with trails and recreation activities. So there is a tremendous effort across government to try to place an appropriate focus on that area. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 163-15(4): Active Living Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister then inform me, in terms of these after-school initiatives or funding for these programs, how is it that the school programs or the communities can take advantage of them in terms of having access to them, and having these programs actually set up in the communities so we won't have to send our children away from home to institutions such as Territorial Treatment Centre or any type of facility in the Northwest Territories? Let's keep our children at home. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 163-15(4): Active Living Programs

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member raises a good point, and the fundamental issue that we always keep in mind is that the cornerstone of healthy children and strong communities is a strong family and parents that are actively involved in their children's lives. That's a first step. There is funding available for application through the Minister responsible for Youth, in some cases. There's money in MACA. There are school programs with facilities that are usually open in the evenings for extracurricular activities. Many teachers volunteer; many people in the communities volunteer as coaches and work with the children in the various sports that are there. So there is opportunity in every community, I would suggest, for parents and children and interested volunteers to get involved. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 163-15(4): Active Living Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has outlined different areas of funding. Has his department coordinated with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in terms of having a one-stop shop for the small communities? There are so many different departments to access funding from. Who is doing what is confusing, and sometimes the right hand is not telling the left hand what's happening. So is there anything in his plans in terms of helping the communities receive funding more efficiently? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 163-15(4): Active Living Programs

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the social programs Ministers meet on a regular basis, and we've been spending a lot of time looking at the issue of prevention, and getting children and youth and adults active and into active living. We're doing our best to communicate that information to the communities, to the community governments, to the community organizations. If there are areas where we are missing the mark, or there are gaps, then I would be very interested to hear from the Member where those are, so we can take the necessary steps to address those. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 163-15(4): Active Living Programs

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think our communities have been mentioning a lot of gaps in this type of program. It's really sad that we have to send our children as a last resort in terms of the issue that we're talking about with the Territorial Treatment Centre, because our communities have been crying for help for a long time. I welcome the Minister's response to this. Can the Minister inform me, and the House, how or when we can have a brainstorming discussion about the gaps to be filled to involve more than just myself or the Members here, involving community members, individuals? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 163-15(4): Active Living Programs

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to put this item on the agenda for our next social programs Ministers' meeting, so we can have a collective discussion about the Member's concerns and see what next steps we take. Thank you.

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

Question 164-15(4): Cabinet Decision Process

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are also going to be on the transfer of the Territorial Treatment Centre. My questions are for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that I am quite surprised at the nonchalant and very laid back attitude of the Ministers and Cabinet at the accusation from this side that the transfer was based on nothing else but political reasons. That is a very serious allegation, and political means in this regard not being politically brave or politically strong. Political, in this context, means Ministers making a decision without merit, without administrative and bureaucratic support, without good information, but making a decision by politicians for no other reason except politicians can. I'd like to know from the Premier, is that how the Cabinet runs the government? Do they sit around the Cabinet table going, hey, we're here to make

political decisions and we're just going to transfer this? Is that how the Cabinet makes decisions, Mr. Speaker?

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

Return To Question 164-15(4): Cabinet Decision Process

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think a basic requirement here is that we recognize that we're all politicians. We all make political decisions. That's our business. If we're not in that business, we're in the wrong place. So this decision is a political decision. The decision to put money into completing Highway No. 3 is a political decision. The decision to put money into building a new school in one community over another is a political decision. These are not bureaucratic decisions. These are political decisions that we make and we vote in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 164-15(4): Cabinet Decision Process

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely shameful.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shameful.

MS. LEE: That is absolutely disgusting, Mr. Speaker. That is not what I mean by a political decision. I don't mean because a politician makes a decision that's a political decision. The Premier is not listening to what I'm saying here. I mean, the Members from communities would not want Ministers making a decision about where to build housing politically. That would have to be on need. So I'd like to know, does the Cabinet not look at anything about what's needed, like Inuvik needs a new school because the building fell down? Is that a political decision, Mr. Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

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

Further Return To Question 164-15(4): Cabinet Decision Process

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, of course, when we make our political decisions as politicians, we take into account all of the information that's available to us and we make our decision. If the school in Tulita or the school in Inuvik needs to be repaired, then we look at our budget and we decide whether or not we can afford to make that political decision, and we use our best judgement on it. But that's the business we're in, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 164-15(4): Cabinet Decision Process

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are elected here by the people to make decisions for the benefit of all the people in the Territories, and that's the job of the Premier. Mr. Speaker, being political in making decisions is like treating a \$1.2 billion government budget

as a smorgasbord. The seven Members in Cabinet say okay, we're going to put \$100,000 here, \$10 million here, because we are here to make political decisions. Would the Premier not agree that all those decisions have to be done with information from the bureaucrats, from the experts, from the architects, from the accountants, from the tax people? Does the Premier not agree that that is the job of politicians, is to use good information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 164-15(4): Cabinet Decision Process

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I agree. We take all of the information that we have access to and we make decisions, hopefully, that are timely. I agree with the Member; they have to take into consideration our responsibility to represent all of the people in the Northwest Territories. We cannot represent some people and not others. We have always had the hard decisions of making the decision that best fits the interests of all people across the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 164-15(4): Cabinet Decision Process

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then in deciding to transfer the Territorial Treatment Centre, did the Premier and the Cabinet look at the information about the transfer and what it means, and how the children in that care facility will be treated, and about how those children and the parents and the people who work there, who the Premier is supposed to serve as well, not just the people where the facility is going to. I'd like to ask the Minister what he looked at when the Cabinet made the decision to transfer that, other than political gamesmanship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. I heard about three questions there. Mr. Premier, you can answer one or all three. Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 164-15(4): Cabinet Decision Process

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take my job very seriously. I don't get into political gamesmanship. I look at whatever information is available and continue to look at information that is brought to us all the time. That includes information that was before Cabinet when we made this decision, and information that was brought to us since that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 165-15(4): Boards And Agencies Representation

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister responsible for FMBS, with regard to regional representation on boards and agencies. Mr. Speaker, last week I addressed the issue that I've researched the NWT Committees, Boards

and Councils Handbook. Out of 35 boards and committees, there were only six with Nahendeh representation. I was just wondering if the Minister can tell me what our regional representation policy is for boards and agencies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 165-15(4): Boards And Agencies Representation

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the area of representation from citizens across the Northwest Territories, it's by convention that when we seek positions to fill vacancies that are out there, we take a number of items into consideration. That being a balance of territorial representation, and of the expertise that's required on certain boards. Types of things of that nature are what we take into consideration. We don't have a policy that says that every board must be represented by one member from each region or, for example, every dialect of every aboriginal language that we have. We have to make a balance or distinction of trying to get a balance across the North of large communities, small communities, and north and south expertise, as well. There are a number of considerations that we do take in when we look at these issues. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 165-15(4): Boards And Agencies Representation

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that answer. Once again, out of roughly 35 communities and councils, 29 have no regional representation from Nahendeh. It would be understandable if these boards had only one or two members, but many of these groups often have up to 10 members with no reason for regional exclusion. Can the Minister tell me how it came to be that all these boards and councils have no regional representation? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 165-15(4): Boards And Agencies Representation

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for decisions made by past governments when they structured different boards or agencies out there. Again, it would go board by board, or agency by agency, as to what area they were serving, what expertise would be required, and the commitment that is out there. Practice is, for example, when I have certain positions open on the Liquor Board -- let's use that as an example -- I would write to the Members and ask them for nominations that they might be able to present, as well as it can be done publicly through the papers, requesting people to forward their names. That is one of the considerations that we take in, as we look at what expertise is required and try to come up with a balance across the Territories. There are a number of factors that come into play here. I would be happy to sit down with the Member and go through his issues on this particular

side, to see what specific boards and agencies he is concerned about. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 165-15(4): Boards And Agencies Representation

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Another alarming trend that I have found was the enormous percentage of committees, boards and councils that have high numbers of representation from Yellowknife alone, Mr. Speaker. Why does a government, who continues to pride themselves on diverse culture and unique geography, continue to alienate regions with little or no representation? Some of these are very high-powered boards, Mr. Speaker, like the Student Financial Assistance Appeal Board, among other things. Coming from the regions, that is one of the things that is the most sought after, is appeal. Mr. Speaker, does this government have any policy, or will it look at establishing some type of policy, that ensures regional representation? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 165-15(4): Boards And Agencies Representation

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have said, it has been the practice of the government to try and look for, and to fill, these vacancies from regions and other communities. We try to draw a balance between that. A lot depends on the size of the agency or board. If the board or agency serves a particular region, then we would go to that region alone, and select from that region. If it has to do with a community, that would also be taken into consideration when we look for names.

Again, it is a convention that we do this, and I am happy to sit down with Members of the Assembly to see if we can draw up something more formal, or get a better understanding of how this is done. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 165-15(4): Boards And Agencies Representation

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly our government has to have balanced regional representation in all that we do, and we are well aware that 50 percent of the population of our territory resides in Yellowknife. That does not mean that all our boards and agencies have to have full representation from Yellowknife.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Once again, if the government can look at some type of policy, or ensure that we do have regional representation guaranteed...I know we are reviewing boards and agencies; I don't know if we can write it in there. Can the Minister look at that?

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

Further Return To Question 165-15(4): Boards And Agencies Representation

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member pointed out, there has been work going on with the role of boards and agencies, and how they serve the Government of the Northwest Territories and the people of the Northwest Territories. We could look at that as an avenue as how to come up with a balance or look at how those boards and appointments are made. Thank you.

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

Question 166-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The May 6th e-mail from the deputy minister of Health and Social Services refers to this as a decision to relocate, based on political versus bureaucratic decisions. Mr. Speaker, why are we cherry picking the TTC, and moving it to another community? I need to know from this Minister, what were the criteria that this Minister used to decide to move these folks from Yellowknife, disrupt their families, disrupt the employees, and move it to Hay River. What were the criteria that this Minister used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker; sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is rising on a point of privilege. What is your point of privilege?

Point Of Privilege

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a constant reference to a document that is not officially before this House in the debate here, and one that all Members may not necessarily have at their disposal. We are being asked to comment on it without having the benefit of having it before this House. Thank you.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Member has said that he would be willing to table this document at the appropriate time today. I don't think that question was directly related to the document as such, specifically to the document, so I will allow the question. Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 166-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member directly referenced an e-mail that is not before...correspondence that is not before this House, and I am not in a position to be sure that we are talking about the same document. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Hawkins, supplementary question, with no reference to the document that is not before the House right now. Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 166-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't challenge the Chair like the Minister just did. But I will ask the Minister: Transplanting this service is ridiculous, I think, because I think the South Slave already has a service, so why don't we consider that?

Oh, wait a minute. We wouldn't. No, we would never consider moving anything from Fort Smith to Hay River. So if there is a need to have two in the South Slave, why doesn't the Minister consider leaving the Territorial Treatment Centre in Yellowknife, and establishing a new service in Hay River, which has been mentioned a number of times? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 166-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we have carefully considered is the appropriateness of the action that we are currently undertaking. We have made a good decision, and we are taking steps to make it so. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 166-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because I want to show my respect for the Chair, I will ask, would the Minister be able to clearly say today, was this a bureaucratic or political decision based on nothing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 166-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are all legislators in this House; we are elected officials; we make decisions as politicians. We did it on the best advice we had. The Department of Health and Social Services and their staff gave us the information we requested, and we made a decision, which I believe is a good one and one that we will continue to act on. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 166-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, the Minister referenced best advice and requested by, so it sounded like it was a really skewed question. Where could we keep a treatment centre for kids anywhere but Yellowknife? I ask the Minister to reconsider the question asked earlier which was, clearly, would they look at establishing a treatment centre in Hay River, and leave the Territorial Treatment Centre, that is well established in Yellowknife, alone? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 166-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to look at establishing a treatment centre in Hay River, relocated out of Yellowknife. At the same time, as I indicated earlier, we are going to look at a number of other options in terms of improving services in the North for children and youth currently that are served in the South. At present, that is the decision. Thank you.

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

Question 167-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions, too, are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger. I am looking at Hansard, the record of what has been said in this House on May 26th of this year. Mr. Speaker, I am going to paraphrase a response to a question. This is a reply from the Minister. The Government of the Northwest Territories has also made the signal, very clearly, that they are interested and willing to look at decentralizing programs when they make sense, and when it is the appropriate thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, since last May, and over the course of the summer and the fall, a number of very well-qualified professional and community organizations have said otherwise. This is not an appropriate decision, and it does not make sense to do it. Mr. Speaker, has the body of information already brought to light from doctors, schools, front-line NGOs, parents and staff, made no impact on the government's decision about relocating the TTC? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 167-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we considered all the information available. In this job, where there are far more problems than resources and we have to make a tough decision, we made a decision which I believe is the right one, and we are going to continue to move on that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 167-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I just can't square this up. The Minister said there was a problem here. There was a difficult decision to make. How can it be that a community that has spent 15 years joining in the creation, evolution, and enhancement of services to these kids be a problem? Why is it that the children and the families and the parents are being politicized this way, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 167-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this program is one that will be well able to be delivered in Hay River. They have delivered child welfare and childcare services before, as has Fort Smith, as has Inuvik. They have good transportation systems; they have access to professional services; they have a very good education system. For the services we require for these children, that program can be effectively and efficiently delivered outside of Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 167-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to keep some open ears and an open mind on this, but I just can't find the justification for this decision. It's in tatters, more and more, as information that has been presented and will be tabled will show. When will the Minister bring back a revised plan, Mr. Speaker, to keep the TTC here in Yellowknife in the community that helped to build it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 167-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't want the Member to be under any illusions here. There is no plan to reconsider this. We are moving appropriately, and following all the steps with Public Works and staff at Bosco Homes to make sure we have an orderly and effective transition for 2007. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 167-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, that's great for Public Works and Bosco Homes, or whoever the caregiver may be, but where were the appropriate steps with the Members on this side of the House, with the community, the parents and the staff involved? Where were those steps?

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

Further Return To Question 167-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, due process was followed. We are here today debating a decision that was made previously. I just want to indicate again to this House, that we are moving on that decision. It is a good decision. It's going to bring a service into Hay River that can be delivered there very effectively, and children across the Northwest Territories will still see a high level of service. Thank you.

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

Question 168-15(4): Reopening Of Dene K'onia Young Offender Facility

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice. Not so long ago, Hay River had a young offender facility. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice some questions about that. Hay River had a facility that was built up with a lands program and a very successful program for youth in our community. We were proud to see them involved in our schools and working in our communities. Those youngsters, those youth, were all shipped over here to Yellowknife. Our qualified staff were scattered across the North. Would the Minister of Justice consider reopening the Dene K'onia Young Offender Facility? I maintain to you today that if we had an ounce of support from the Yellowknife MLAs to keep the Dene K'onia operating for all these same reasons, we wouldn't be having this discussion today. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 168-15(4): Reopening Of Dene K'onia Young Offender Facility

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker. We made a decision as it related to that facility and delivery of that service. We think it was the right decision. We are sticking to that plan. Of course, as the Members know, there will be additional programming now available at the former Dene K'onia facility. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I just wanted to know.

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

Question 169-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am having a problem with anybody in this House suggesting that because something was taken from Hay River that we have to take something from Yellowknife, and that that is somehow the right thing to do, it's an acceptable thing to do and is something we should just accept. I expect that the establishment of the Hay River oil and gas office was based on merit; that the removal of Dene K'onia to Yellowknife was based on merit. We can't possibly be here saying that all these were just political decisions without any merit. My question is for the Premier. The Premier suggested earlier that this government works for everybody, and we have to do what's right for everybody. I would like to know whether moving a well-established program from Yellowknife to another community, because the other community needs it and because it's a politically sound thing to do, is an acceptable way of making the decision. If so, what does he have to say to those children in the treatment centre, the parents and the workers who really want to know from the Premier how

that is serving everybody in the Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 169-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, every day we have to make decisions based on the best interests of people throughout the Northwest Territories. I agree with the Member; this was a politically sound decision that was made. We make political decisions every day. What do I say to the children? I say to the children we are going to make sure that they have the best possible services available to us as a government. I say that to children everywhere, whether it's in Yellowknife, Hay River, Inuvik or Colville Lake, we will provide the best service possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 169-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that one of the important things politicians have to know is that we are generalists. We are not medical professionals. We are not teachers. We are not youth treatment workers. We are not any of that. We are not required to be that. We are here to make these decisions, and we have to base our decisions on good information, not just political willy-nilly: this morning I got up and thought Hay River is missing something, maybe we will just move it from Yellowknife, and that's okay. What information could the Premier give that says to the children in care that their service will not be affected, other than his good word? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, that's a question of the detail provided by Health and Social Services, so I am going to refer the question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 169-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to recap briefly, this is a territorial program that can be effectively delivered in Hay River. It has the capacity. There is a facility that is newer than the one here that will give us greater life. They have the educational capacity, they have sufficient medical services and good transportation links to provide that service. It's cost neutral and it's going to serve the longer-term, broader mandate of the Northwest Territories to have services delivered as broadly across this territory as possible.

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

Supplementary To Question 169-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question goes back to the Premier. Since this was announced in the local media -- and the Premier is free to hand it out to anybody he wants -- and was not announced to the staff or parents, there have been numerous people in the community in the know, such as the teachers, child psychiatrists who come here to visit from Edmonton because we don't have that service here. Many of the workers that work in the facility, who know intimately the care and programs that these children need, have been writing to the Minister about why this program needs to stay here. Is the Minister suggesting that none of them knows anything about the needs of these children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 169-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting nothing of the sort. I am saying it is a program that has been delivered in Yellowknife, and well in Yellowknife. It can be delivered equally well in Hay River. The decision has been made for the reasons I have just articulated in my previous answer as to why we made that decision, clearly recognizing that it wasn't a question of the service not being satisfactory here, but that it will be well delivered in Hay River by the people there.

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

Supplementary To Question 169-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I started this question to the Premier and I am interested in knowing how the Premier manages decisions of Ministers in Cabinet. In making this decision, did the Premier ever ask any information about whether or not this program should be transferred, including political decisions? Was it based on decentralization?

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

Further Return To Question 169-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this decision was done through the regular process where information was brought back through the bureaucracy, through the steps necessary to get to Cabinet. It was on that basis, and that information, that Cabinet made the decision. Thank you.

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

Question 170-15(4): Support Services For Youth And Children

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to hear the debate regarding the TTC between Yellowknife and the community of Hay River. I

want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, are there any types of plans to have this type of program in the Sahtu, rather than having people from the Sahtu sent to Hay River or to Yellowknife? We could have this type of support in our region, so we don't have to send our children out. It would take some strong political will and decisions. I would certainly like to have this debate in our region, also. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 170-15(4): Support Services For Youth And Children

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this point, the focus is on this particular issue of TTC being relocated to Hay River. The issue of the requirements of the Sahtu are one that we are working on with the new health and social services authority, along with other departments of government. The Member raised the issue of services for children and youth, the focus on prevention, working with families. That's going to be our focus, along with trying to put in more resources like nurse practitioners and better access to rehabilitation teams and those types of things. The Member, at this point, should be thankful that the numbers aren't there to require a facility for the people of the Sahtu yet. He has the good fortune of having a strong enough population. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 170-15(4): Support Services For Youth And Children

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's really nice to hear from the Minister of Health and Social Services, saying that our region has a strong enough population not to require that type of service in the Sahtu. I hope we don't get to the point where we need the type of services the Members are debating. It goes back to the types of services we do need in terms of prevention. What type of plans does the Minister have in ensuring that the Sahtu can have this type of prevention program in our region? I mentioned earlier about the after-school program. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 170-15(4): Support Services For Youth And Children

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this speaks to the fundamental vision of the Northwest Territories, of strong regions and strong communities. Not having all resources centralized in only one, two or three locations, but that we have capacity and capability across the land. Mr. Speaker, we've committed resources, public health units, nurse practitioners; we've added doctors; we're working with the schools, Municipal and Community Affairs with services to youth and children in the regions. We want to work with the families and the parents through those processes, as well. We continue to demonstrate, given our resources, a very strong commitment to build capacity at the community level, working with the land claim

organizations, community governments, families and individuals to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 170-15(4): Support Services For Youth And Children

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the same type of support for parents be there, accommodation and travel? I am not sure what support parents are getting, from our region and other regions, who have children in facilities like TTC. Will that continue as the program is considered to be relocated to Hay River? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 170-15(4): Support Services For Youth And Children

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member that there will be no diminishment in the service that is already there for any child in the Northwest Territories who requires the services of TTC. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 170-15(4): Support Services For Youth And Children

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe people who work at facilities such as TTC and other facilities are dedicated, well trained, and committed to their jobs. My hat goes off to those special people who have those special talents. Would the government ensure that the same level of services that they have in Yellowknife will also be available in Hay River? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 170-15(4): Support Services For Youth And Children

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we build sufficient lead time into this transfer to be able to deal not only with the physical infrastructure and renovations, but the staffing component as well. Thank you.

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

Question 171-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The Minister keeps referring to a plan and a process to relocate this facility. I wonder if Cabinet had the same information that the Minister so kindly provided to the Regular Members close to the closure of the last sitting of this House. If Cabinet had the same information that I had in my hands and that I had the ability to have a

look at, I don't understand, for one second, why it was even a close call on relocating this facility.

Anybody who looked through the information that I saw would come to the conclusion that this facility belongs here and should stay here. Is it too much to ask the Minister to show us his plan, to demonstrate to us how this is going to work? How are the services going to be provided in Hay River? How are the children going to be looked after in Hay River? What are the options on Education in Hay River? There is a myriad of things that I think the Minister should answer, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. There were two or three questions there. Mr. Miltenberger, you can answer one or all of them. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 171-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the program will be run the same way it's run here, the same contractor, the same kinds of program guidelines; the same case planning; the same work with children; the same relationship with the school; the DEA in Hay River to provide the educational services; the same relationship with the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority to ensure whatever health services are there; the same relationship with Stanton to make sure there is access to specialists as required, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 171-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister again: When can we see a plan? Is it too much to ask the Minister to provide us that type of information? We've been asking for a business case for this transfer for five months now. We haven't seen anything except the documentation that I spoke of earlier. As I said, if you saw it, it would be an easy decision to make. When will the Minister provide us the information and the proof that this is a good decision and that it will work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 171-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Members from Yellowknife have rejected the rationale, very clearly, of the decision, why it was made and what the intention is. If the Member would like a timeline with milestones from now until the relocation, I would be happy to provide that to the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 171-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see that. As I said, we haven't seen anything. I would like to see a timeline. I would like to see what the provision of services is going to be for the children in Hay River. That's information that just has to happen. The Minister spoke earlier about it being cost neutral. I don't think that it is. I think it's at least \$1 million more to renovate Dene K'onina, if I am not mistaken. So I would like to see this information. I don't think it's too much to ask, Mr. Speaker. When we will get the information? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 171-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we can provide the timeline and the cost estimates within two weeks. Thank you.

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

Question 172-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be on the Territorial Treatment Centre. I take note that the Minister says the Yellowknife Members reject the decision made, and the arguments made, by his ministry to move this. It was based on political decisions and not facts or science of any sort. Why does this Minister not show any type of leadership, by leaving the TTC established here in Yellowknife? Why does he not open up a new branch in Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 172-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I am showing political leadership in the decision that has been made and the steps we are taking to see that it is implemented. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member short, follow-up questions.

Supplementary To Question 172-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I see from this side of the House is boldness to move this over there. I see brash decisions. Frankly, I see nothing that has gone out to Yellowknife Members, or anyone on this side of the House, to say why we can't establish two or three of these things. If there is a need there, no one is questioning that. If there is a need there, establish one. Don't take it away from the community that has a need and fills it. Why doesn't the Minister think ahead long

term? Why don't we look at establishing a new facility and program service in Hay River?

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

Further Return To Question 172-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a territorial program. I have articulated the reasons why. The Member accuses me of being obtuse, clouded vision, clouded ethics. The phrase that comes to mind is, "There is none so blind as those who will not see."

---Laughter

I believe we've made a good decision that is plain for all people to see, except the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 172-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to say that I am glad the Minister finds this funny, because I don't.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh!

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister hasn't given us any reasons. He's just said we've made it; thank you. Tell us the facts and why you cherry picked the Territorial Treatment Centre over any other one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 172-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is not an amusing situation, I can assure the Member. We are not cherry picking. We did this with due consideration and contemplation that required frank discussion. Now we have made a decision and we are acting on it, and it will be in the best interest of all people in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 172-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for giving it the attention and sensitivity that it finally deserves and respects. It is not a laughing matter. I heard the Minister say he took due consideration. Why did he not take due consideration in evaluating the options of opening up a new facility in Hay River, rather than rip out the one that has been established and running well here in Yellowknife for a number of years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 172-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are not ripping out anything. We are moving with due, careful and measured consideration with reasons that are sound, both programmatic-wise, as well as fiscally. It meets the broader objectives of the Northwest Territories and the Government of the Northwest Territories, in terms of having service delivery spread out across the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 15-15(4): Medical Health Treatment

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

1. How many northerners suffering from emotional and mental difficulties are currently cared for in northern institutions? How many are under 18, and over 18 years of age?
2. How much did the GNWT spend last year for care of these people?
3. How many northerners suffering from emotional or mental difficulties are currently cared for in southern institutions? How many are under 18, and over 18 years of age?
4. How much did the GNWT spend last year for care of these people?

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 173-15(4): Contract For Treatment Services

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Michael Miltenberger, and it relates to the continuation of service to children aged eight to 12 who have severe emotional and behavioural disorders...this alleged plan that we might get a look at. The staff now under the employ of Bosco Homes has already seen some attrition, due to the uncertainty of the contract and the demise of their jobs here in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, what decisions has the government made about extending

the contract with Bosco Homes after its expiry in March of next year? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 173-15(4): Contract For Treatment Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have made a decision to extend it by an additional three years to allow us to carry out the transfer and have a good transition period, and not have the disruption of any kind of uncertainty. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 173-15(4): Contract For Treatment Services

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What steps has the department made to enable the contractor to then recruit, hire, and train a workforce in this new location? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 173-15(4): Contract For Treatment Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been ongoing work done with the contractor. They have been very proactive and productive in assisting us in the transition and mapping out the steps, and I will ensure that we include that in the plan. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 173-15(4): Contract For Treatment Services

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I am curious as to how all these things can be, as the Minister said to us earlier, cost neutral. We already know that the expense of this is budgeted. We believe that an additional \$700,000 from the plan, approved over a year ago, is simply to have the same service done here in Yellowknife. We're talking about transition, training, and many, many things here. How can the Minister convince us that the continuance of this can be at all cost neutral? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 173-15(4): Contract For Treatment Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The capital money is already in the budget, and we're already paying the program costs. So from that perspective, we consider it program neutral. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 173-15(4): Contract For Treatment Services

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, again, we're seeing denial and just spinning off positions that have already been taken. They're on the record from service professionals already, that providing the access to the kinds of professionals and community services that we already have will be an added expense, an inconvenience, and a barrier to providing good service. How can the department continue to ignore this kind of information? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 173-15(4): Contract For Treatment Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've considered all the issues raised and information we had, and we made a decision, and we're acting on it. Thank you.

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

Question 174-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Crossing Dispute

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier, with regard to the ferry dispute in Fort Simpson, and the ruling by the Canada Industrial Relations Board. Has this government sent the Industrial Relations Board an appeal letter, stating that this is an essential service to the Nahendeh riding communities of Fort Simpson and Wrigley? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 174-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Crossing Dispute

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have looked at this situation. There are specific criteria, I am told, that must be met in order for a program or service to be considered essential. This ferry operation does not meet those criteria. The advice that we have received is that there's no basis to appeal the ruling, because the ferry simply doesn't meet the criteria set out for an essential service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 174-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Crossing Dispute

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was unaware that there was no room to appeal a decision by such an important board that has such important factors for the residents of Nahendeh. Can this government write, on our behalf, that a ruling of essential service is necessary for us? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 174-15(4): Fort Liard Ferry Crossing Dispute

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if pursuing the definition of "essential service" that this board uses is a way of going, but I can assure the Member that I am writing to the federal Minister of Labour to advise him that this situation has to be resolved one way or the other, without zeroing just on trying to redefine it as an essential service, but let's find a way of working with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 175-15(4): Sole Source Contracting

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier, the Honourable Joe Handley. My questions relate to information which has recently come to light with respect to sole sourced contracting, and it has been reported in the media that a number of contracts -- seven in total, I believe -- were awarded to a local consulting firm. The contracts exceeded the allowable limit in value. Some of them exceeded the amount that was predetermined that they would cost, and these were sole sourced contracts that did not receive the approval of the Executive Council as per the rules for such sole sourced contracts. I guess it then begs the question, on a government-wide basis, does the Premier know of any other departments, or are there any other instances, where this practice would be taking place? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 175-15(4): Sole Source Contracting

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't know of any other departments where this is happening, but since we became aware of this issue, I can assure you that we'll make sure that every department knows that this cannot happen. If it is not exceeding the authority, it certainly seems to be going around some of the authorities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 175-15(4): Sole Source Contracting

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Premier what measures he could put in place to ensure that this would not happen again, where employees of the public service would be awarding contracts that, it would appear, neither Ministers nor the Executive Council had the opportunity to approve the money they've paid out. Surely there are some checks and balances missing here in the system. Could he just be a little more specific as to what he could put in place to ensure this wasn't happening, because this happened over a long period of time repeatedly? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 175-15(4): Sole Source Contracting

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I'll say that this did happen in one division within one department over a long period of time. We're aware of it now, and we will certainly be providing direction to deputy ministers that this cannot happen, and that there will certainly be serious consequences to people continuing to do this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 175-15(4): Sole Source Contracting

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the payment process, or some other process, is there an actual mechanical system that could be put in place that would ensure that this doesn't happen again? I mean, just to tell the public service "Don't do this anymore" doesn't really offer me the kind of reassurance that I'm looking for. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 175-15(4): Sole Source Contracting

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, if there is an inadequacy or a vacuum in some of the directives that we have with regard to payments, then we will correct that. I've read the report, but I'm not sure whether or not something has been violated at this point, or whether there's simply an opportunity there where people can circumvent the system. In any case, we want to ensure that this does not happen anymore. If there is need for more clarification on the directive, then we will provide that to all of the departments and deputy ministers. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 175-15(4): Sole Source Contracting

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very large public service, and the government is a very large customer for these kinds of consulting services. What kind of a tool would the Premier be prepared to put in the hands of his Ministers to deal with this? He said there would be severe consequences, or serious consequences, if this occurs again. What kind of tool would he put in the hands of his Ministers to deal with people who would circumvent the approval of the Minister and the Executive Council for these sole sourced contracts? Would he tell the Minister that they could fire the person that did it? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 175-15(4): Sole Source Contracting

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think the first step is to make sure that our directives or regulations are airtight. Then if deputy ministers or their staff are

circumventing those or ignoring them, then, yes, it could potentially lead to a firing. Mr. Speaker, we would have to look at each case to determine whether this was done inadvertently, or whether it was intentional, but certainly intentional disregard for directives, regulations, rules, legislation we operate by could lead to termination of a job. Thank you.

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

Question 176-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the honourable Premier. As a Member of Cabinet, I'd like to know what specific information the Premier had at his disposal in order to make an informed decision on the relocation of the TTC. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 176-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, all of Cabinet would have been given information by the Minister at the time. It's been some months since that decision was made. The Cabinet information we have is confidential, but I can assure you that every piece of information available to us was considered by all Cabinet Ministers, including myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 176-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier if the information that was provided by the Minister was the only information that Cabinet was entertaining before they made a decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 176-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, our decisions with Cabinet are made based on information that is brought forward by the Minister who is bringing a decision paper forward. Of course, all of us have other information that we're hearing from MLAs, that we're hearing from committees, that we hear from the public. All of that is taken into consideration in making the decision, but it's primarily based on a decision paper, but not solely on that document. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 176-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Provided in that information from the Minister of Health and Social Services to Cabinet, was there any type of disclosure of

any kind of consultation? God forbid that took place amongst the Regular Members, or anybody else, for that matter, or was the Cabinet strictly steered by the Minister of Health and Social Services on this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 176-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I can't get into the specifics of what consultation took place, but whenever we make a decision in Cabinet, we do ask the question of whether consultation took place with all of the appropriate departments or agencies involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 176-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I actually have questions for other Cabinet Ministers, so I will stand down my last supplementary. Thank you.

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

Question 177-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Health and Social Services, in regard to the Territorial Treatment Centre, which should be no surprise. What indicators, political, bureaucratic or even other, does this Minister need to see or hear that the services provided by the Territorial Treatment Centre need to continue here in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 177-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this decision was made some time ago. We considered all of the appropriate factors at that time, and we are now in the implementation stage. We haven't been second guessing ourselves, or going back over ground that's already been ploughed, and we're moving ahead with the direction that has been given. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 177-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the Minister didn't hear the question, or maybe it was just too obvious, which is, what indicators, political or bureaucratic or other, does the Minister need to see or hear from our community for him to realize that this service is needed

here in Yellowknife? So that doesn't say change your plan. What that says is, what indicators does he need to see in Yellowknife to say we need the service here? So I want to know from him that answer. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 177-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reality is people in Yellowknife will not lose access to this service. It will be in a half-hour plane ride across the lake, which, in a larger urban setting for a commute, would be nothing. So it's going to be accessible to the people of the Northwest Territories, including Yellowknife. So there is no loss of service here. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 177-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, again, we seem to be avoiding the question, which is about leaving the service here or continuing a service here in Yellowknife. I guess the Minister doesn't seem to want to answer it, so I'll try asking it maybe a different way, which is what does the Minister need to hear from the community? Does he need a petition? Does he need a bonfire outside with people saying hey, look at us, we want this here? What does the Minister need to hear to realize this service is important to the community, and the hearts of the young children that are going to this centre? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 177-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question was, do the children count? Yes, the children of the Northwest Territories are critically and fundamentally and vitally important to our future, and we're taking the steps to make sure that program delivery is accessible to them, and it will be fully accessible to them in Hay River. The Member asked what I would require from the people of Yellowknife. Well, they've been very ably represented in this House by the Members opposite from Yellowknife, who have kept this issue current, and have kept me standing up here answering questions. But the reality is, a decision has been made and we're moving on that. We want to do it in the best way possible, and that's what we intend to do. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 177-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I've heard the Minister many times say the decision has been made. It appears it's been made simply on political reasons, but we could make bureaucratic reasons to

come up with reasons why we need this service to continue in Yellowknife. So if the Minister says it's just a plane ride over, well it's just a plane ride over from Hay River to Yellowknife, too. So I would consider the Minister considering a service in Hay River, but I wish also to continue to say this service needs to stay in Yellowknife. What indication does this Minister need from the people of Yellowknife, from the families of Yellowknife, and its workers at the TTC, or the kids at the TTC, what to make a political decision by saying heck, let's break the bread into two and we'll have services everywhere? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 177-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm in my mid fifties, but I believe my hearing is still quite good, and so are my powers of comprehension, and I believe I understand very clearly the question. The issue is my answer that the Member does not seem to appreciate. I understand what he's asking me, and I'm telling him a decision has been made, and that Yellowknife has been ably represented by himself and his three colleagues. They've raised the issue, it's gotten lots of coverage, and we've made a difficult decision and we're acting on that. That's what's happening for now until 2007 when the program opens the doors in Hay River. Thank you.

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

Question 178-15(4): After-School Programs For Youth

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of MACA. Mr. Speaker, as the primary funding source for sports and youth and community organizations, can the Minister of MACA tell me how his department is addressing the obvious lack of sports in the communities that involve after-school programming for the small communities? What type of direction or leadership does this Minister provide to our communities? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 178-15(4): After-School Programs For Youth

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to think we provide very sound leadership.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, our role in delivering sports programs across the Territories, and in the municipal governing communities, is more of a supportive one. As the Minister of youth and also the Minister of MACA, we've been very busy in that area for some time over the last little while.

The Youth ministry was created in the 14th Assembly, and it's mandated to provide funding for programming, and also take recommendations to Cabinet, and produce recommendations so that the government can act on

delivering initiatives towards the youth. We have created the youth core funding that's directed towards high-risk students. We have on-the-land training, and trapper programs. We also have the youth contribution programs, and we've really worked hard to try to get the NWT Youth Council up and running. We've provided them funding so they can get together. We've also hosted a number of youth assemblies over this last year: one in the Sahtu and one in the Deh Cho. We also work trying to promote the concept of healthy living. We set up the Teen Esteem Program. We're working with the schools to fund some of the teachers for in-service training for teachers that deliver programs, and mostly the teachers are responsible, or have been responsible, for after-school programs.

Mr. Speaker, there are a whole number of programs that we have worked on that we are delivering. We have met with the federal Minister of Sport to talk about putting sports back on the radar screen and making it a priority. We've also been meeting with the federal Minister of Health to talk about their new funding they are coming forward with that we want to be able to deliver. I think we are in the best position to deliver some of these programs that are geared towards youth. We've talked about how we can access some of these things. So there are many, many things that I could still continue on, Mr. Speaker, but I'm happy to say that we've been successful in incorporating a number of new initiatives that are geared towards the children in the communities.

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

Supplementary To Question 178-15(4): After-School Programs For Youth

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister says "sound leadership," it just sounds too good here, Mr. Speaker, in terms of what he's telling us in the House. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of MACA tell me what his department is doing to look at offering incentive programs to industry or other NGOs to see some after-school programs in the smaller communities? Actually create after-school programs so people can be in those programs after school. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The short of it, Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 178-15(4): After-School Programs For Youth

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we don't have any programs directly titled after-school programs or any in-house school programs. We do provide money for the school athletic association. We provide the schools with funding towards the phys ed teachers to take in-service training for the phys ed teachers that are dealing with after-school programs. All our programs are geared towards support. We do also provide funding to the communities as part of the community operations budget for recreation officers in each community. We also have earmarked a specific amount of money in each community within the community government to deal with recreation, specifically earmarked for recreation so that it can't be spent on anything else.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a number of programs in that area. We also have initiated the Community Initiatives

Program, which is \$1 million application-based programs the community can access to deal with issues around the youth. A lot of the communities are using it to build youth centres. We still have a real void, I think, in the area of operations dollars for the youth centres; however, we are working with the federal government and the federal government is providing money through some of the friendship centres in the communities to operate them. Of course, they're more native outreach programs, but there is still money flowing from the federal government. There are a number of things we are doing. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 178-15(4): After-School Programs For Youth

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that we don't have the funding for the after-school programs; however, he listed funding for school associations. I'm not too sure how many small schools have athletic associations or even a physical education teacher to have this type of funding available. Can the Minister tell me what MACA is doing in terms of providing a policy that will provide after-school programs that do not have these athletic associations, or physical education for the small people to get into these after-school programs so that they can make healthy choices in terms of the other visions that this government has outlined. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 178-15(4): After-School Programs For Youth

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did not indicate, I hope I didn't mislead the Member by saying that we didn't have any after-school programs. My statement was that we don't have any programs specifically called after-school programs. We have a number of programs that can be utilized by the community, that can be used by the school, and I'll be glad to list them in writing to the Member if he requires it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 178-15(4): After-School Programs For Youth

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Michael McLeod, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I apologize if I have misinterpreted the after-school programs. My apologies to the Minister. I'm asking the Minister if his department would consider a policy to specifically label after-school programs that could fund certain programs in the schools for the children in small communities. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 178-15(4): After-School Programs For Youth

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, of course we'll consider it. Every time we look at a new program, it requires new money. We

have been, as I indicated earlier, talking to the Minister of Sport, Stephen Owen, and also the Minister of State for Health and looking at some of their new monies that are coming forward in the areas of healthy living and more physical activity-type programs. This is something that we certainly can see if it fits within the after-school programming for the Minister's question. Thank you.

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

Question 179-15(4): Benefits Of The Novel Housing Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure enjoying these two-hour question periods. I think we should amend the rules to do this every day.

My questions are for the Minister of the Housing Corporation, in follow-up to my Member's statements and some of the questions that I asked yesterday. I just want to say that, as a result of that, I have certainly received a lot of phone calls and input from different people. I was quite surprised to see the reaction. Yesterday when I was talking about some of the things that I thought the Housing Corporation could do better, I made a reference to the Novel housing project. I want to be very clear that what I was talking about was whether or not money had been clearly budgeted for the Novel housing project so that people could be taken to the plant and look at it, and all the kinds of explorations that need to be done to see if this is a good project or not, could be done. I thought it should have been a line item in a budget someplace so that we just don't have kind of an open-ended experiment or research being done that isn't well thought out and well planned. Having said that, though, I need to tell you that I have been to the plant, and I have toured it, and I have seen the Novel prototypes and, quite honestly, I've shared this with the Minister before, I think the concept is quite brilliant to build the conversion into the units, the camp units, at the plant level before they ever go into the field. It recycles, it reuses, it saves the proponents of the pipeline money in the end because there's residual value left there for them. It also provides this government with a legacy which could address housing shortages in the North. I want to say that I think it's quite a good idea and I didn't want it to come across that I was opposed to it.

What I want to ask the Minister now in follow-up to that is, are you able to see other benefits than what I have just listed off? I'm thinking of northern participation in the manufacturing. I'm thinking about tradespeople being trained as a result of this project. Maybe the Minister could elaborate on those kinds of benefits. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 179-15(4): Benefits Of The Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Member for the question. I believe that we do have a real opportunity here. Yes, it will cost in the range of \$200 million to convert some 1,400 units, but \$180 million of that will be left in the Northwest Territories, which leaves a large portion of that capital investment

spent in the North, from on-site development, transportation, northern materials from northern manufacturers with their products, and site development costs. More importantly, to do the conversion, we will have local opportunities for local residents in our communities. We're looking at a two or three-year employment opportunity, whereas, in most cases after development, everything shuts down and nothing happens in the North.

Because of that, the benefits outweigh the investment by what we're looking at. As I stated, we're looking at a capital investment where \$180 million from this project will remain in the North for northern manufacturers and communities and, more importantly, the residents of the Northwest Territories to generate long-term employment over two or three years. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 179-15(4): Benefits Of The Novel Housing Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the Minister has had a number of times to visit with the folks who have put this concept forward. I'd like to ask the Minister what kind of response he's had from the proponent who has wanted to provide these camp units for conversion to houses. What kind of response have they had to our needs to add on these benefits, like training and northern manufacturing and things like that? Was there an open mind to those issues? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 179-15(4): Benefits Of The Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been in those discussions with ATCO out of Calgary. They are willing to train people to take advantage of these job opportunities, especially in the area of conversion, but more importantly in the construction of these camps. There is the possibility of doing some of the manufacturing here in the North, by putting plants in the North, and looking at certain construction of different facilities with respect to the larger facilities they're going to need, such as cooking facilities and the different modular units needed due to the design of the camps. I think more importantly, the federal Minister and myself also did a tour of that facility, and the federal Minister made it clear that the condition they're putting forward on any federal dollars that are going into it had to have a strong human resource component, which included training, some sort of manufacturing component. Also, the energy efficiency compliances had to be used to make these units energy efficient to meet our zero housing construction. We are working with the federal government to make it clear that the developer has to have human resources, economic and energy efficient components to that proposal. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 179-15(4): Benefits Of The Novel Housing Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister what kind of response he's had from people like Imperial Oil. Obviously, for units like this, we are talking about a larger investment up front on the part of the pipeline proponents than would be in a traditional type camp. Understanding there's a residual value at the end, as well, but what kind of response has he had from Imperial Oil on the initial larger investment? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 179-15(4): Benefits Of The Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been meetings held between myself, the Minister of Finance and the Premier with Imperial Oil to look at the social and economic benefits that will flow from the pipeline. Out of that, there are two main components that we're after. One is looking at Novel with respect to the possibility of these family dwellings for use after the construction of the camps, but also it included a hydro component. So there have been meetings between myself, the Minister of Finance and the Premier with Imperial Oil to make it clear that this is a fundamental component of any pipeline being built, that we have to have some win-win situations here. That we all win at the end of the day and, especially with an \$8 billion project, we want to have a living legacy of what's going to fall out from the pipeline, that we have something at the end of the day to show for it. I think the Novel concept is probably one of the best opportunities we'll have and probably the only opportunity we'll have to do it in the life of this project and this decade. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 179-15(4): Benefits Of The Novel Housing Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister is, in all these meetings with the producers, with the manufacturers, with potential interests in the North, is that consultation all taking place by the Minister himself? Is it all being done in-house in the Housing Corporation? Or is there a consultant on contract to the Housing Corporation to oversee these consultations and negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 179-15(4): Benefits Of The Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do not have consultants on this. We have our own internal staff, such as the president of the corporation, who is part of a team which includes CMHC out of Calgary, representation from the federal government, representation from the Government of the Northwest Territories, representation from ATCO structures, all in these ongoing discussions. So we are a

tripartite group trying to work together to have something we can all have had input in, realizing we all have issues with this and we'd like to ensure that our issues are dealt with at the front end. Whatever the final decision is, we were involved all the way through this process. Thank you.

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

Question 180-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was hoping to make a statement on Novel housing this afternoon, but I couldn't do two things at once. I'd like to ask a question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, and I'd like to make it clear that my problem with the Novel project isn't because they are trailers. I have already indicated in the House yesterday that we have great trailers in my riding. What I have a concern with is, given the track record of some of the things that have been done, especially the market housing initiative where 40 trailers had such a problem being moved into our communities, I don't want the government to have a legacy of subsidizing these big fancy oil companies, who need housing anyway, subsidizing ATCO, who's in the business of building trailers, and the government ending up with 1,400 units that we are not able to move. So far, I'm not seeing any sound plan. A \$200 million project is massive.

AN HON. MEMBER: These guys don't know how to plan.

MS. LEE: I'd like to ask the Minister, when will he put...I mean, if the idea is so great -- obviously he thinks it's great -- why can't the public have a look at what the plan is?

MR. BRADEN: Good question.

MS. LEE: Are we ever going to get any kind of plan? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 180-15(4): Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I put out verbal invitations to all Members of this House that they have an opportunity to tour the facilities at the site in Calgary where we had some 32 people who were attending the Far North Conference in Calgary two weeks ago. They had an opportunity to go through this facility. I mentioned the Minister of Housing had an opportunity to go through it. Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, our MP, has gone through it. This is not something that is made up. It is actually a physically constructed conversion on site where people have the opportunity to live. I throw an invitation out there to anyone who would like an opportunity to review this. I put that to most Members here and most of the Members have taken me up on this offer, and it remains for the remaining Members of this House.

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

Supplementary To Question 180-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect, the Minister is not answering my question. How many times do I have to tell him I don't have a problem with the trailer idea. Okay? I'm sure it's liveable. I don't have a problem with that. ATCO is a professional trailer builder. That is not my question, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is suggesting moving 1,400 units, if this project goes through and it comes to fruition, from God knows where they're located. They're going to be scattered everywhere. I mean, it's not going to be in Yellowknife or on a road access area. They're going to be scattered all over the place. The Minister is suggesting, for example, 100 trailers per year are going to be moved. That's over 14 years. So what's going to happen to a trailer that's been sitting there for 14 years?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. I'll allow the Minister to answer that question. Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 180-15(4): Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, as a corporation and as people in isolated communities, things have been transported over winter roads for the last 30 years. We depend on the winter transport over winter roads every year in all our communities that are on road access systems. We have a transportation system that serves our communities by taking goods and services into our communities, and this is no different. The whole idea of having these camps located where they are along the pipeline right-of-way is to ensure that those communities accessible to those facilities will be able to transport them. They are all going to be along the Mackenzie River system. We have a transportation system where we move goods and services up the river by barge. We'll be able to barge these facilities to those communities and set them up. We are looking at developing a study to ensure that we have the land, we have the human resources, and we have the capacity to put these things in place over three or four years. We do it every year. It's not different than what we're doing today to implement houses in isolated communities from Colville Lake to Lutselk'e to other communities today. It's no different from what we're doing today, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 180-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize as northerners and northern businesses, we move things all the time, but I'm talking about the Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation could not, and the Minister admitted it, successfully move 22 units from Edmonton. We're talking about moving these units from places that are scattered all over the place. I have not seen any plan that shows the Minister has this under control.

Another thing I'd like to see is the government be more proactive. If the government is thinking about spending \$200 million on a housing project, they have an obligation to ask the local businesses, to say, "If we gave you \$200 million would you be able to build us 1,400 units in the next 20 years?" Can we just talk about what options there

might be other than flying to Calgary and having a tour there every week to enhance the business of Alberta and Calgary, which frankly does not need more than what they have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 180-15(4): Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, an opportunity like this comes once in a lifetime. I think we have to take advantage of this. There's no way we can construct 1,400 units in the scope of this type of project. Without this project it would not happen. I think we have to realize the economics of this are bigger than a company in the Northwest Territories trying to take it on. We have to realize there is the potential for two more diamond mines in the next few years. There are major expansions in the tar sands in Alberta. We cannot compete with the present trade market to find people who can do this. The only way we can accomplish 1,400 units in the Northwest Territories in the next five years is through this type of a project. We are short, right now, 2,600 units in housing in the Northwest Territories. If we don't do anything in the next 10 years, it's going to be 4,000 units. Unless there is some better idea than doing it this way, and if we miss this opportunity, we may not have this opportunity again in the future.

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

Supplementary To Question 180-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the level of arrogance of this Cabinet is just totally overwhelming. They make a decision. They think that it is a politically strong thing to just make the decision: it's my way or the highway. They don't believe that they have to talk to anybody else. They don't have to talk to the experts about TTC, they don't have to talk to any of the builders.

Why don't you just ask them? Why don't you, as the Government of the Northwest Territories, have any faith in our northern manufacturers, northern businesses, and at least give them an opportunity to answer as to what kind of training and what kind of building industry they could create over 20 years? They are not being asked to produce 1,400 units in one second. Over 20 years, could anybody? That is enough money and time to create a whole industry...

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. I will allow the Minister to respond. Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 180-15(4): Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our housing crisis is here with us today. We have to deal with it today. We can't deal with it in 20 years. As I stated, this is the initiative that we are working on. It is unique, yes, but it will meet the housing crises that we are facing in the small communities up and down the valley. Thank you.

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

Question 181-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Floyd Roland. I would like to know, as a Member of Cabinet, what specific information Mr. Roland had at his disposal in order to make an informed decision regarding the relocation of the TTC to Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 181-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Premier stated earlier, the information that was provided is the normal process when a Minister wants to get a decision made. He would put the information together, and it would be reviewed; as well, the information of Members around the table is considered at that time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 181-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Finance Minister if the information that he had, or was given, by the Minister of Health and Social Services in order to make a decision, was the same information that the Minister of Health and Social Services shared with Regular Members in order for...They deemed it consultation, but... Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 181-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, that is a question that only the Minister of Health and Social Services could answer, not the Minister of Finance. He doesn't know what information that the Health and Social Services Minister would have provided to the committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Would you like to rephrase your question, Mr. Ramsay?

Supplementary To Question 181-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will rephrase my question and ask the Minister of Finance if he was satisfied that the information provided by the Minister of Health and Social Services was adequate for him to make a decision to relocate the TTC to Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 181-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as stated, and has been discussed around this table and this floor for quite some time now, that the information provided we had to take into consideration, we had to look at the services provided to those individuals using that; the impacts within this community, as well as the business case that was put forward around moving this facility out to another community in the Northwest Territories. We were aware that there would be political concerns raised around this initiative, as is with any other decision we make that would impact the community negatively, and that was also taken into consideration. The decision was made to go ahead with the move, and as we have been saying here on an ongoing basis, the decision has been made on the information provided. We knew it was a difficult one, but it was made to proceed in this direction. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 181-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance; what specific financial implications were provided to you by the Minister of Health and Social Services, so that you could make this decision? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 181-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't get into the specifics of a number that was provided to Cabinet or to FMBS, as those are documents that we use to make our decisions on. I can inform the Member that, as Finance Minister, I was satisfied by the information brought to us, that they were substantiated, and there was going to be an impact. We recognized that, and made a decision with all those inputs. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 181-15(4): Decision To Relocate The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: No, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for other Cabinet Ministers, and I will stand down my final supplementary. Thank you.

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

Question 182-15(4): Contaminated Site In Tulita

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, regarding the contaminated site in Tulita. I have been talking about this for the last couple of years. The contaminated soil is still at the airport, and nothing has been done to remove that soil. I would just like to have an update. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 182-15(4): Contaminated Site In Tulita

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that where this material is now stored is a temporary one, and it has dragged on. I did meet with Minister Efford, before he stepped down, and I haven't had an opportunity to meet with the new Minister yet. We are looking at a longer-term solution tied into that site and others; unfortunately, I can't give the Member any more of a definitive answer than that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 182-15(4): Contaminated Site In Tulita

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that they are looking at a longer-term solution, and also that he is going to meet with the new Minister regarding this issue. I know that in terms of contaminated sites, this is a small site in Tulita; however, it is an eyesore and has affected a lot of people in my region. Can the Minister, when meeting with the new Minister, be able to have someone from the community of Tulita tag along to this meeting with the Minister on this specific issue? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 182-15(4): Contaminated Site In Tulita

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take the Member's request under advisement, and as we look for the planning, we will make sure that we have full opportunity to make sure that the community has feedback, whether that means that somebody travels with us or not. But we will definitely keep the Member informed in terms of how the planning goes, and in terms of setting up the meeting. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 182-15(4): Contaminated Site In Tulita

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hate to see the definition of "temporary" with the federal government. It has been over two years since I have been here, and the federal government really, really has some weird definitions in terms of the phrases that we use in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister, on behalf of the people in Tulita, in regards to removing this contaminated site. It has been felt by my uncle, who has been personally affected by this contaminated site. It is an eyesore and it is heartache for the people in Tulita. Can he have some influence in terms of telling the government, please remove this contaminated site?

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

Further Return To Question 182-15(4): Contaminated Site In Tulita

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's frustration, and that is a message that we have been taking to the federal government, and we will continue to take as we move forward with discussions with the new Minister. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 182-15(4): Contaminated Site In Tulita

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be committed to coming to the community of Tulita to look at this contaminated site and meet with the people to look at a timetable to have this site removed? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 182-15(4): Contaminated Site In Tulita

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have committed to the Member that sometime early in the new year we want to do a tour of the Sahtu, and when we are in Tulita, I would be happy to make sure that we take a look at the particular site. Also, we indicated the last time that we traveled there that we didn't have the opportunity to overnight in Tulita, so the intention would probably be to overnight there and spend enough time and look at the concerns that the Member may have. Thank you.

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

Question 183-15(4): Ingraham Trail Monitoring

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for Minister Michael Miltenberger. To his surprise, it will be under his Environment and Natural Resources hat for a change.

---Laughter

I saw a smile. Mr. Speaker, I have a constituent who has a cabin out in the Cameron River area. I went to visit them, at their urging, two weeks ago. I have raised this issue in the House a number of times, but the fact is that people are out clear-cutting, making trails and making roads that do not exist on any map, and they are establishing them by driving all over the brush, building campfires, leaving toilet paper, Tim Hortons' paraphernalia; who knows, it never ends. While I was visiting this area, there were shots being fired nearby, so I certainly hope someone was lining up their sights, as opposed to shooting at me or game in the near area. Mr. Speaker, what is being done in this area that I speak of, to protect that area? I would like to hear that from the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 183-15(4): Ingraham Trail Monitoring

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an Ingraham Trail Working Group has been established. The issue of the shots, if that is the same incident that I am familiar with, was reported to the police. There were steps taken to go and investigate. There has been work done by this working group to ensure that there is better monitoring and enforcement. I know ENR staff, as well, have been asked to go out and take a look. We also could deal with the fact that a lot of the land in question is federal Crown land. We are taking steps. I understand that ENR has noticed significantly less damage than it had in the past. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 183-15(4): Ingraham Trail Monitoring

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I only underscore the point of shots being fired, because my constituent had told me a couple of weeks prior to my visit in the evening they were outside getting some fresh air and shots were being fired in their direction. Their only course of reaction was to set up their car alarm; they had their key chain in their hands. That was the only discouragement of people just shooting at random out there. Mr. Speaker, people are clear-cutting. The Minister was right that some of the land is federal land, but the fact is that the territorial government puts garbage bins out there. So that does not further encourage people to come out there, by establishing territorial garbage bins. Would the Minister look at bringing mine rocks of some sort, because there is construction right nearby, to block in these entrances to allow them to regrow, heal, and move this unofficial park to a more reasonable area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 183-15(4): Ingraham Trail Monitoring

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member raises a number of good issues that would be grist for the mill for the Ingraham Trail Working Group, the Centre Agency Working Group, to look at a number of these issues. I understand that some parties, in fact, requested garbage bins. Whether they should be there or not, those types of very specific on-the-ground issues are the ones that that working group could best address. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 183-15(4): Ingraham Trail Monitoring

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are putting garbage bins on land that isn't ours. We are pouring cement pads, and we are putting the big blue boxes again

on land that isn't ours, yet we pretend that we are not responsible for it. Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you, if you plant a garbage can there, they will come. They are coming because there is garbage everywhere out there. There are beer bottles and whatnot. Mr. Speaker, I am asking the Minister to be proactive on this issue. Would he seriously commit today to telling that group to say, look, let's come up with a plan, put some rocks to block those areas, and move this unofficial park somewhere else, because these are by legal cabins. I can guarantee you today that no one in that area has asked for garbage cans to continue this negative activity. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 183-15(4): Ingraham Trail Monitoring

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the specificity of the Member's suggestions. As I indicated, I will make sure that I talk to the department officials about it and that, when the interagency group gathers, they can put their minds to this and some of those very specific suggestions made by the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 183-15(4): Ingraham Trail Monitoring

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the clock, so I will be brief. Would you not talk to them? Will you tell them to block those entrances, so we can allow that area to regrow in a healthy natural way? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 183-15(4): Ingraham Trail Monitoring

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again, I will take under advisement the Member's strong suggestion of how I should approach the matter either arbitrarily or in a more proactive way. But I appreciate the intent of the Member's questions, and I will bring it forward. Thank you.

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

Question 184-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is on the Novel housing. As I stated earlier, Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation has a budget of \$70 million a year. When we are talking about \$220 million of government's money on housing going into a project, it is absolutely massive. It is great if we could get \$90 million from the federal government towards our social housing. That is more than we ever got for many years, so this is an unprecedented opportunity. I think it is only fair that Members on this side; the construction industry; the supplier of materials; Aurora College, where they do training -- I mean our Apprenticeship Program --

everybody should be involved in this project when government is suggesting spending \$220 million.

Mr. Speaker, even an amateur economist agrees that every dollar an individual spends, and a government spends, multiplies by at least fourfold. We are talking about a billion dollar project. The Minister of ITI should be involved in this project, not all Yellowknifers, and 40,000 from NWT that could go to Calgary and look at this project. I want to know what his plan is to get buy-in, and get information out to the people. Is he suggesting that he is going to bring 40,000 people to Calgary to look at this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 184-15(4): Novel Housing Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, again, I don't know how many times I have to stress this, but this project is a no-go without a pipeline. We have been talking to all the players involved in the pipeline. That includes the Mackenzie gas project themselves. We are looking at the Aboriginal Pipeline Group. We are talking to the aboriginal communities that are affected, and the leadership in those communities, so that they can see for themselves exactly how they are going to be involved in this project, and how they can benefit from this project. I think for so long, Mr. Speaker, we have seen projects come and go in which we do not see any benefits to communities and people in those affected areas. Again, Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity that we have by way of this \$8 billion project that we are hoping to be able to deal with the social crisis we have in our communities. We have heard it from all the Members. We have heard it when committees made their presentations. We heard in the House the crisis that we have by way of housing in the Northwest Territories. The biggest impact of those crises is in the Mackenzie Valley. This is a perfect opportunity for us, Mr. Speaker, to be able to find solutions to these housing crises that we are facing, and an opportunity to really make a difference in regard to how housing will be delivered in the Northwest Territories but, more importantly, to those communities that are affected. With that, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member short supplementaries. Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 184-15(4): Novel Housing Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not interested in giving any more forums for the Minister to make a speech on the same line, so I will just reserve that for tomorrow. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 7, returns to written questions. Ms. Lee.

Point Of Order

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order on what transpired earlier in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Member for Hay River South is very passionate about the debates we are having, and so am I, but there was something said there that is very troublesome to me.

I would like to ask your good office to review the transcript and see if I have a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order on Rule 23(c), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (n). Mr. Speaker, under the rules of the Assembly, there is a rule against needless repetition or raising matters which have been decided during the current session. Mr. Speaker, I should just point out the words that I am raising a point of order on.

Earlier, during the question period, Mrs. Groenewegen said something to the effect that if she had any support from Yellowknife Members against moving Dene K'onia, that we wouldn't be in this situation today. I have a problem with that, Mr. Speaker, because it is raising an issue that has already been decided in this House. It was in a budget item. The budget was debated. It went into Social Programs debate. The Social Programs committee reviewed it, and the House made a decision. That is one issue.

Another thing is under rule (h) and (i), I feel it is suggesting somehow that Yellowknife MLAs had anything to do with moving Dene K'onia out of Hay River. That is unfair to the people of Yellowknife, and the people of Hay River. We did not do any such thing. That was a government move. The government came to the committee with a merit of why they had to close this young offender facility in Hay River. That was that. It was decided. It was hugely debated. We had a huge debate on that. It was not Yellowknife Members moving this facility out of there. Certainly, I don't think Yellowknife people should, in any way, think that we are being somehow punished because Yellowknife Members did anything against Hay River, because I don't believe that is at all the case.

I want to raise my last point. It says on Rule 23(n) where a Member introduces any matter in debate that offends the practices and precedents of the Assembly... Mr. Speaker, as you can see, and the people can see, we have a lot of heated debates here. We have to feel free to make decisions on whatever decisions we make. We shouldn't have any fear of retribution against our members, or the people that we represent, because of decisions we make. I don't think that the Member had any ill will toward anything, but the way it was said, and the way she looked at us and said, "If Yellowknife Members supported..." I don't think is appropriate. I think, for the good of the debates that we need to have in this House, I would like her to apologize and retract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Member has risen on a point of order. To the point of order. The Member has spoken to the point of order. To the point of order. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the unedited Hansard in front of me. Ms. Lee could have read directly from what she had in her hand which, I believe, is an unedited Hansard. No? No, you didn't read it. You are going by what you remember. Going by what I remember, this is what I said. I said that if our kids had not been transferred from Hay River Dene

K'onia, and Dene K'onia closed and those kids moved to young offenders in Yellowknife, I said, we wouldn't be having this discussion today. And I said that if the Yellowknife Members had supported Hay River in all the same arguments that we made about Hay River losing our staff, losing the value to the community, losing the program, the kids from the South Slave, we made all the same arguments, we didn't get support for that in this House. I am saying if we had, and if that had affected the decision, I am saying we would not be having this discussion today, because we wouldn't have an empty building to be moving TTC into. That is what I was saying. I guess, Mr. Speaker, I was making an observation. I don't think it was particularly offensive, but I guess I will await your ruling on it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the point of order. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just going to say that all Members on this side of the House supported Mrs. Groenewegen's plight. I think we did support a motion of some form that spoke to the need of that. All the Members from Yellowknife always speak in favour of Hay River so...

---Laughter

...in the context of establishing brand-new services, not ripping them out. I take offence to the offence, I guess. We are very supportive of Hay River and its industry.

MR. SPEAKER: To the point of order, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it is fair. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the point of order. Ms. Lee, you have spoken at length on the point of order, but I will allow you a very short comment on it. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. Just one more point that I wanted to make, I think, which is germane to what I am trying to say, in her sentence; that is, that if Yellowknife MLAs had an ounce of support against moving Dene K'onia. That is the important part. I submit to you there is no suggestion here that we were trying to move it. It was a government initiative. I think that is imputing motive on the part of YK MLAs, that we were somehow trying to take something out of Hay River and we are being punished for it. That is a very serious allegation that we should not condone in this House, because we should be free to debate without being intimidated or threatened in any way. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the point of order. The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Briefly, I think, to the point of order, I personally don't see that there is something amiss here or that I would say has changed or set any new threshold in the kind of debate that we have here. Mr. Speaker, in committee, in one-on-one discussions, hallway discussions here in the Legislature, one of the biggest and strongest dynamics that we have is the friction sometimes, the contrast, the conflict between big and small communities, regions, and the kind of discourse that we are having here is one that I try to be very sensitive to. But the kinds of remarks that have been

made, yes, I certainly took notice of what Mrs. Groenewegen was saying at the time, but I do not find it out of the course of the kind of thing that we talk about, and how we talk about it on an almost daily basis here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the point of order. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the issue here is that, as legislators, we represent our people, and sometimes issues get heatedly debated. However, I feel some level of comfort, as a Member here, that we can stand up and say whatever we have to say in representing our people. I do not think that sometimes this causes something we may feel that hinders us, or stops us from speaking on their behalf. I look forward to the ruling on this point, because it will have some impact on how we conduct ourselves as legislators in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the point of order. There is no more debate on the point of order. I will take the point of order under advisement, and come back with my ruling. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 7-15(4): Summer Students Statistics

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I am in receipt of a return to written question 7-15(4) asked by Mr. Hawkins to the Honourable Floyd Roland, Chairman of the Financial Management Board, regarding summer students statistics.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a report that specifies the region, and affirmative action status, of the 315 summer students hired by the Government of the Northwest Territories for the summer of 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, tabling of documents. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

Petition 2-15(4): Children's Treatment Programs For Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand here today very proud to carry a petition signed by 707 people here in Yellowknife. I would like to present this petition, Mr. Speaker, dealing with the matter of children's treatment programs for Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 707 signatures of Yellowknife residents and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the Government of the Northwest Territories continues Yellowknife-based residential programs for children. Mr. Speaker, this petition was originated by people with concerns about continuing care here in Yellowknife and in communities north, and that the decision to relocate the program to another community would not interrupt the service that the community has spent a long time building and wants to continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 35-15(4): 2005 Summer Student Employment Program

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents for tabling. Further to my Return to Written Question 7-15(4), I wish to table a document entitled 2005 Summer Student Employment Program, by region and affirmative action hires.

Tabled Document 36-15(4): 2004-2005 Performance And Accountability Report

As well, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Performance and Accountability Report 2004-2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

Tabled Document 37-15(4): NWT Development Corporation 2004-2005 Annual Report

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled NWT Development Corporation 2004-2005 Annual Report: Investing in the Future of Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Tabled Document 38-15(4): NWT Power Corporation 2004-2005 Annual Report

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Empowering People in our Communities, Northwest Territories Power Corporation 2004-2005 Annual Report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Tabled Document 39-15(4): Letter To Minister Miltenberger From Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Re: Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter from the Yellowknife Education District No. 1, in support of keeping the service of the Territorial Treatment Centre in Yellowknife. The letter is dated June 13, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 40-15(4): Letter From Bern Will Brown Re: Fuel Prices

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document from Our Lady of the Snow Mission from Colville Lake and Bern Will Brown, written to me with regard to the petroleum product costs in Colville Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Tabled Document 41-15(4): E-mail Correspondence From Dave Murray Re: Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document. It's a copy of an e-mail. It's sent from Mr. Dave Murray, the deputy minister of Health and Social Services, on Friday, May 6, 2005, at 12:28 p.m. It went to Mr. Damian Healy and Mr. Derek Elkin, and was copied to Gay Kennedy, Sylvia Haener, Elske Canam, and Dave Murray. The subject was a media...

MR. SPEAKER: You don't have to read the document.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would prefer it. It's actually a short one. Can I read it into the record? Am I allowed to?

MR. SPEAKER: No. Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Tabled Document 42-15(4): Inventory Of Services For Children In Yellowknife Circa 1997

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document entitled Services for Children in Yellowknife Circa 1997. It is an inventory of seven programs for children, Mr. Speaker, five of which are no longer in existence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Tabled Document 43-15(4): CBC Radio Transcript Dated June 24, 2005, Re: Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a transcript from an interview with an affected parent and TTC director, with regard to the Territorial Treatment Centre. It was dated June 24, 2004. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Tabled Document 44-15(4): Package Of 163 Letters Of Complaint Re: Liard River Ferry Dispute

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I have 88 letters of official complaints with respect to the ferry dispute in Fort Simpson, from Monday, October 17th. There are a further 75 official complaints with respect to the ferry dispute given to me on October 18th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 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; and, Bill 7, Personal Directives Act, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I call Committee of the Whole to order. We have a number of items before us. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. The committee wishes to consider Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, and Bill 7, Personal Directives Act.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Does the committee agree that we should pursue that after a brief break?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I will call committee back to order. As agreed before the break, we are going to deal with Bill 5 and Bill 7. The first one is Bill 5. The Minister responsible for this is Minister Bell. I would like to ask him if he would like to make opening comments on the bill. Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: I am pleased to introduce Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act.

The Judicature Act sets out and confirms the powers of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal in the Northwest Territories. Bill 5 will amend this act to allow the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal to deem certain individuals to be "vexatious litigants." This is a legal term that refers to someone who persistently and without reasonable grounds, brings court actions against the same person repeatedly, or against various defendants. Such conduct may be considered an abuse of the court process.

A person who is deemed a vexatious litigant could still begin or continue court proceedings, but would have to obtain permission from the Supreme Court first. This would be decided on a case-by-case basis, and the person would have to satisfy the judge that there are reasonable grounds for the proceedings and they would not be an abuse of process.

The judiciary has requested this amendment, and similar legislative provisions are in place in six provinces and the federal court. Currently, judges can dismiss specific lawsuits as vexatious, but this does not address the rare but significant problem of the individual who consistently

abuses the court process. This type of conduct could have a significant impact on an already stressed court system. This amendment will enable the court to deal with such individuals, should the need ever arise.

Madam Chair, I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have about 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, to please present her committee's comments on the review of the bill. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs met to review Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature 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 requests from two presenters that we not approve Bill 5. Ms. Arlene Hache from the Centre for Northern Families expressed concerns that the courts are biased against some groups and mistrust about how the provisions might be applied by judges to declare vulnerable people vexatious litigants and deny them access to the courts.

Ms. Julie McNeice disagreed that any unresolved dispute should be thrown out of the courts on the grounds of vexation, which, as she pointed out, is a subjective term.

The committee was satisfied in its discussions with the Minister that the process is standard for designating someone a vexatious litigant and is sufficiently high to protect individuals' access to the courts. The committee also had a question from Ms. Bernadette Unka, a Fort Resolution resident, about whether these provisions could conflict with treaty rights. The committee put this question to the Minister, who advised us that he did not see the amendment having any unintended implications or applications to treaty and self-government agreements. As the Minister reiterated, this really is about people who advance a position continually and chronically, that doesn't have any merit, before the courts, and it would not be a decision that judges would take lightly.

Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 5 to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 5. 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 will ask the Minister if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Mr. Bell, for the record, could you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Chair. With me today from the Department of Justice are Karan Shaner and Rebecca Veinott. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Okay, thank you, Minister Bell. General comments to the bill, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is a little bill, but it deals with rights of people, which is a very important concept and important thing in our society. It is a bill that will limit people's right to access court in one aspect, in that if a person is found to be vexatious, which is a subjective term, then they will have to make a separate application in order to appear in court again. I think that the committee members, and many people that came to talk to us, are mindful of that fact; and I think when we have any situations like this, it is important for all legislators, like ourselves, to give due consideration to that and make sure that we're doing the right thing by it. I think the important thing here is that the test of determining someone as being vexatious has to be quite high so that innocent people, like what Ms. Hache suggested, people who are not familiar with court proceedings or who are vulnerable or marginalized, are not somehow given unfair treatment in any way. This is something that committee discussed with the Minister a lot during the committee hearing process, but that's outside of this venue. Just for the record, and in the interest of the public, if the Minister could articulate the extent of that test. How narrow is that test for someone to be declared a vexatious litigant? Thank you.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think it's important to reiterate that the bar is very high in terms of this test, the test of whether or not someone is a vexatious litigant. This is not intended to stop those who are coming before the courts with the defence in the case where they are unfamiliar with process, the proceedings in court; they may have what the courts would view as, maybe, unsophisticated defence is the wrong term, but at least are unfamiliar with the proceedings of court. That's not at all the intention here.

This is meant to stop, in the event -- and we don't have any cases before us that have prompted us -- but in the event someone were to come forward time and time again with a frivolous and vexatious case that really had no substantiation and amounted to an abuse of the court process, clogging up the courts and preventing other people from being able to come before the court. So judges, in making this decision, would do so very carefully. They would consider the precedent before them, would look at what has happened in other jurisdictions where this has been made, and we've indicated that there are six provinces and the federal court that currently have this provision. So it is a very high test. Judges would not make the decision lightly, and I'm comfortable that the judges would use this in the manner that we are setting it out for, and use it responsibly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. During our discussions, we were given, by the department's legal counsel, very specific cases from outside of this jurisdiction that succeeded in having someone declared a vexatious litigant. So just for the record, could I just get that example? Thank you.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, I can ask Ms. Shaner if she would recount that for us. Thank you.

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

MS. SHANER: Thank you, Madam Chair. The case that I referred to in the standing committee was a case from the province of Prince Edward Island, and the litigant's name in that case was Ayangma, A-Y-A-N-G-M-A. It is a very good example of the application of this type of legislation. Mr. Ayangma was involved, at the time, in 46 separate pieces of litigation in various jurisdictions, 27 of which had been decided against him or abandoned by him. That is just an enormous amount of litigation for one individual to be involved in. In addition to taking note of the cases that the defendant was involved in, the court also had to take note of the merits of each of those proceedings, because, of course, this legislation is not aimed at circumventing a person's right to bring forward cases that have a good foundation and have merit. So it is a very onerous test, and this case demonstrates that the court will look at both the number of cases, and whether or not those cases have a reasonable foundation. In that case, of course, the Prince Edward Island Supreme Court found that the litigant's cases had no merit, and they made this order against him, which resulted in his having to, of course, first ask permission from the court to bring forward any further cases.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you. Some of the concerns that Ms. Hache brought forward -- and I do respect the work that Ms. Hache does on behalf of people that she works for, and the people that stay at her centre, and I do always take note of suggestions she makes, because she usually makes really good ones -- was that because there are a lot of people in our court system, and I'm sure it's the case in many...I don't know if maybe we have more of them or not, but for those people who come to court unrepresented, and who either cannot afford a lawyer or who don't have a lawyer, how can we give any assurances to those concerns of Ms. Hache that those unrepresented people might be more prone to be declared vexatious litigants, because they don't know how to make their argument without the help of a lawyer. How can we assure them that that's not what this bill would end up doing? Thank you.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: I think the best assurance that we can give them is that the judges would be bound by the precedent in determining vexatious litigants. So if someone is bringing a court action, and they aren't familiar with exactly how to do that, that the judge is going

to look at the foundation of the case, not whether procedures are being adequately followed. So it really is about the intention. It's about the foundation of the case being advanced, and I think judges would probably consider the fact that someone was advancing the action themselves, and without legal representation, and I think they would allow for more leeway. But I think the best assurance we have is that it's a very high test to meet, and there is a body of precedent in other jurisdictions that speaks to what, in fact, a vexatious litigant is. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bell. General comments. Detail. Bill 5, an Act to Amend the Judicature 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? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have to ask the committee if we can go back to 14.1(1) on the clause. I know we went over it.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed, thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: It says that if a judge of the Supreme Court is satisfied, on application, that a person has, in any court, persistently and without reasonable grounds commenced...Is JP Court part of that definition? Thank you.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: JP court is under the Territorial Court Act, but there would be no practical application for this to apply in JP court.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bell. To the bill as a whole. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is to follow up on what Mr. Yakeleya was saying. I just want to ask the Minister, just for more clarification, what do you mean by there is no practical application in JP Court with this? What exactly does that mean?

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: I will ask Ms. Shaner to provide a further explanation. Thank you.

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

MS. SHANER: Thank you, Madam Chair. The reason that we say it would have no practical application is because the types of actions that this is aimed at are, generally speaking, private lawsuits between two parties. Those types of lawsuits are not brought in JP Court; they are brought in Territorial Court, the Supreme Court, and the Court of Appeal.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Shaner. To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Does committee agree that Bill 5 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Bill 5 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Minister Bell, Ms. Veinott, and Ms. Shaner for your attendance here today. Thank you.

Committee, the next matter before us is Bill 7, Personal Directives Act. I will ask Mr. Miltenberger, the Minister responsible for this act, if he would please present his opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair, I am pleased to have an opportunity today to speak with members of the committee about Bill 7, Personal Directives Act. This bill will enable individuals who choose to do so to make advance decisions about their care, if they become incapable of making personal decisions. Personal directives can help a family member or other person to make decisions that they know would have been supported by their loved one.

The NWT Seniors' Society has been the greatest advocate for this initiative, as has the Council for the Disabled. This act supports the involvement of people in managing their own private matters. It is not about the government stepping in to advise and monitor people's personal and private matters.

The proposed act will regulate the creation, content, revocation and legal effect of personal directives written by persons 19 or older. The act also addresses the issues of agent authority, emergency medical treatment, and the role of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories in reviewing personal directives and decisions made under personal directives.

The act will complement the Powers of Attorney Act, which allows individuals to plan in advance how their financial decisions should be made in the event of incapacity. Together, these acts will support the ability of individuals to prepare, in the event of their own incapacity, by providing authority and guidance about how financial and personal decisions should be made.

It has been our intention to keep the processes as simple as possible. We are not planning to regulate the use of a single correct form or to implement a registry process. We consider the preparation of personal directives to be a private and personal matter, similar to wills.

The department has started to work on communication materials and is arranging to train the health care professionals in the regional health and social services authorities about their responsibilities under this act.

I look forward to discussing Bill 7 with the members of the committee. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I will now ask Mr. Yakeleya to please present the Social Programs committee's comments on this bill. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted public hearings on Bill 7, Personal Directives Act, in the communities of Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, and Hay River during the week of June 22nd to the 28th, 2005, and in Yellowknife on October 11, 2005.

The Personal Directives Act will give northerners over the age of 19 the ability to provide advanced instructions about their health care should they become incapacitated and be unable to provide instructions. It is important to note that unless we enact this legislation, any instructions that a person would leave regarding their personal care, should they become incapacitated, would not necessarily have to be followed by their family or the health care professionals.

This bill would give standing to a personal directive made by a person and should be used in tandem with the Powers of Attorney Act, which allows a person to leave instructions about their financial matters in the event of an incapacity.

The committee noted that single legislation covering the use of personal directives exists in all other Canadian jurisdictions, with the exception of Nunavut. While the committee supports the bill, we are concerned about the lack of involvement by groups such as the NWT Medical Association and the Registered Nurses' Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in the process thus far.

Next to the agents and the families, these professionals would be most involved in implementing the personal directives. We accept the Minister's commitment that these groups will be involved in working out the implementation plan, including the necessary training for these professionals.

The other concerns expressed by the presenters centred on public education, ensuring that local people had access to help in preparing the personal directive in their own language. There are no concerns expressed about the actual content of the bill; these concerns are all related to the implementation of the act. The Standing Committee on Social Programs will be closely monitoring the rollout of the Personal Directive Act to ensure that the process is kept as simple and streamlined as possible, and that adequate training and support is provided to health care professionals.

This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 7. Individual members may have questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. At this time, I will ask the Minister if he would like to bring witnesses into the chamber.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Madam Chair, I would. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Minister Miltenberger, could you please introduce your witnesses, for the record.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. With me I have Ms. Gay Kennedy from Health and Social Services, and Mr. Mark Aitken from the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. I will now ask the committee if they have any general comments on the bill. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have some questions on this. The bill, obviously, I support, and I think the intent of the bill has a lot of support in the communities, especially with senior citizens. It is about empowering people to make decisions about how they want to be cared for when they somehow get incapacitated for medical reasons or other reasons. I think that it is a good thing for the people to be given the power to write a living will, as it is called, to lay out what we want done to us, or not done to us, when we are not able to make decisions for ourselves.

There is much objection to the bill; in fact, there is a lot of support. Where the concerns are -- and there were many during our committee review process -- was the fact that the people that are going to be required to deliver this, if somebody has a living will that says I don't want to be left on a breathing machine if I am not conscious anymore, or I don't want to be in a situation where all sorts of things...this bill will give you the power to make that decision.

Everybody has different notions about what kind of quality of life they want to have. The thing is, it will be the doctors and the nurses and whoever other caregivers might be in these health centres, hospitals or private homes, who have to carry that out. There has to be somebody who has to unplug that. There will be lots of things that these people will have to do, and I am just really disappointed that nowhere during this process was anyone from the NWT Medical Association or the Registered Nurses' Association contacted.

From a common sense point of view, when we are sitting on this side of the House -- and we had a debate on TTC and many other things -- we like to think that department people, with all the apparatuses that they have, and hundreds of people that work on writing a bill, and think of an idea, and carry out policy, that they would be talking to each other. We often learn that that is not the case at all.

I just want to make note of the fact that the department could have done a better job in consulting with those health care professionals, but this has been pointed out to the Minister, and the Minister made a commitment, during our committee process, that they are going to be setting

up some kind of training program, and they will be partnering with the Nurses' Association and other health care professionals to do that. I just want to get a commitment from the Minister, again, that he will make sure that all those parties are involved in a serious and substantive way, and that his department will work with them to make sure that those people who have to carry these out, are going to be well trained, well informed, and well involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have noted the concern of committee, and the Member in committee, and we note it here and we will follow through. In fact, if I could, just for the record, note, we have a number of training sessions already scheduled, and we have written to the Medical Association and the Nurses' Association. We have a major training session on November 17th in Stanton, and then on November 18th with the Yellowknife Health and Social Services.

Again, on the 18th, we are going to do the long-term care, as well. December 6th we are going into Hay River, and we are going to try to book with the other authorities as quickly as we can, in terms of training and review of this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. We have Mr. Braden next. Mr. Braden. Oh, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like this bill, Mr. Chair, in terms of where it is leading, and I just wanted to ask for support. This bill is also going to be looked at in terms of creativity in communicating to the older people in the first language. How is this going to be rolled out? I just wanted to ask about some of the implementation processes in rolling this out in the aboriginal languages for people who are going to need that type of information in their first language. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister is passing it. Ms. Kennedy.

MS. KENNEDY: Mr. Chairman, yes, we have made arrangements to do materials in all the languages, both in written and audio formats. The audio formats will be able to be used in a variety of ways: for people to listen on their own, or for people to listen to it as they want to or to go through the forms.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Ms. Kennedy. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to commend the Minister and his staff for doing this bill. My uncle is in the hospital with cancer, and he is going to need this type of service. The practicality and the reality is going to make a lot of difference to our people and how it is being rolled out. I am not too sure how long he will be with us, but I understand that the Minister is going to Stanton next month to give some training to the professionals over there, so I look forward to seeing how this is.

I think he is going to be in a state where he is going to be incapacitated, and it is very important to help the family in this type of matter. I just wanted to state that. I have no other concerns. I support this bill 100 percent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. That was a general comment. I have Mr. Braden on the list. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to express my support for this bill. It is a very good companion to one that, I believe, was passed in the previous Assembly, which gave people far more certainty and authority over their fiscal and financial affairs. This one, as I look at it, is a companion. It says, here is how I would like my living conditions to be organized.

One of the bits of testimony or comment that we heard that I found very useful on this, Mr. Chairman, was in Fort Smith. A nurse came to appear before our committee, and she related to us some of her experiences as a nurse dealing with people who are in the last days of their life, and the great anxiety and confusion, sometimes, and conflict that occasionally happened, especially with patients of different cultures who may have language difficulties, on top of cultural differences in a western or modern clinical hospital situation. The impression that I got from listening to the nurse was that if the ability that people will have through this bill is well communicated, and if it is simply and effectively implemented, then I think we will be doing a considerable service to people who can then have the kind of certainty, and the kind of treatment and care, and the dignity that is important to them and their families, even when they go into these clinic or hospital situations.

I was a bit surprised to find, Mr. Chairman, that even now if I were to sit down and write out what I wanted to happen to me in this kind of event, the medical practitioners or the legal people would not necessarily have to follow it. They would have an option of making a choice for me, or perhaps my family members or somebody else who would assume authority, would make those decisions for me. This act will set it out absolutely clearly, that my wishes are the ones to be followed. That is a very positive and welcome thing.

There are two aspects of this that I wanted to bring to the floor and ask the Minister about. One was an inter-jurisdictional area, where we prepare the certain document to conform to NWT standards or protocols. Most other provinces already have this kind of thing. Will we recognize, or do we recognize, their personal directives acts or whatever they may call them?

Mr. Chairman, would our personal directive that somebody created on an NWT form be recognized in another part of Canada? Do we have some inter-boundary connection here, Mr. Chairman?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have built in reciprocity in this legislation with every jurisdiction except Nunavut, which has no legislation. With the chair's permission, I would ask Mr. Aitken to speak in quick detail of what is entailed in that reciprocity. Thank you.

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

MR. AITKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is correct; we have a provision in the bill, it is clause 3(2), that indicates that personal directives made in another jurisdiction will be recognized if either a lawyer who can practice in that jurisdiction and can certify that it meets requirements of the legislation of that jurisdiction or if the directive on its face would meet the requirements of this act in the Northwest Territories; then it can be recognized in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thanks very much, Mr. Chairman. The other aspect -- and I believe the Minister and our chair, Ms. Lee, also referred to it -- is the implementation and the rollout of this. The key guideline that is expressed to us here was simplicity, and straightforward. I remember seeing an example of one form, I think it might have been out of the United States, but gosh, I think it was three long legal pages, very detailed; and I'm wondering if the Minister and his people have looked at this, and can we really deliver something that is going to be easy to implement, easy to act on, without getting confused or wrapped up in a whole bunch of detail that somebody may at some point be able to call, gosh, you know, you didn't fill out section F properly. This form is now null and void, and it's too late for you to do anything. I hope we can avoid those kinds of fine detail tangles in this. So have we looked at an implementation that's going to be simple and easy? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are working on the communication and implementation. The coming into force date we're planning for is January. These requirements in the act are very basic. We will send out examples of a letter, or forms of letters, different options of how it could be structured, but it's very, very basic to meet the intent and requirements of the act.

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

MR. BRADEN: To implementation, will a form that is filled out in any of the NWT's 11 -- I believe it is 11 -- official languages be recognized as a binding and legal document? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this act has allowed us to recognize a personal directive in any language. Providing it's clearly understandable in terms of what is being said, then, yes. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. General comments. I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to follow up on some of the questions that Mr. Braden had in terms of the legality or legitimacy of these personal

directives. Some of the people are low income or don't have access to lawyers. I don't know if this can ever be brought up to a proceeding in the court. What type of support or security do they have if they were to go into, say, Stanton tonight, and talk to family members? How legitimate is this? What support is there if there is credence to this personal directive? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the intent is to have this act come into force January 1st, at which time any directives done that comply with the act will have legal standing within the act, and will be treated as binding legal documents.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Aitken.

MR. AITKEN: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The only thing I would add to what the Minister said is that the provision of the bill that says that where the directive is made in the Northwest Territories, it must be made after the coming into force of the act for it to be in effect in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Aitken. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. My understanding is that after this comes into force, these documents and these personal directives will be legally binding documents. Is that my understanding, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Any further general comments? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Are there going to be some lawyers available in terms of if this ever gets into a dispute, family members or whenever we have an opening that somebody could call this into question in regard to the directives? Is there going to be assistance to some of the people? I just want to know if there are going to be lawyers available to help in this type of situation. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, if there was some fiscal incapacity, then the individual would go through the legal aid process to see if, in fact, they would be able to get support if this matter was taken to the Supreme Court. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. General comments. Detail. Bill 7, Personal Directives 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): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 17. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a quick question, or some clarification on clause 13. A person is not eligible to act as agent if he or she is not a natural person. What does that mean? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree to go back to clause 13 to have Mr. Villeneuve's question addressed? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed, thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. This refers to the fact that it has to be a human being that is involved here, not a corporation or a business as a legal entity.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 21.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 23.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 24.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 25.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 26.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 27.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 28.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 29.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 30.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 31.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 32.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 33.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 34.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 35.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed, thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 7 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Bill 7 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Minister Miltenberger, Ms. Kennedy, and Mr. Aitken for their assistance with this bill. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The motion is in order. It's not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

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 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, and Bill 7, Personal Directives Act, and would like to report that Bill 5 and Bill 7 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 Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Again?

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

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 3 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Bill 9: Municipal Statutes Amendment Act

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 9 has had third reading. 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 Thursday, October 20, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 5-15(4), National Day of Healing and Reconciliation
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
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act
 - Bill 7, Personal Directives Act
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 20, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:55 p.m.

