



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2005**

Pages 507 - 550

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

**Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, Members. Welcome back to the House. Orders of the day. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Point Of Privilege**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to section 20(1) of the House rules, I wish to rise on a personal matter, to clarify, in my opinion, what appears to be a one-sided report of the media on an issue as of late.

Firstly, dealing with my supporter's issues that had been in the media, my supporter had used a personal vehicle, a Winnebago, to carry my sign on it during the election campaign. It was not a campaign office or anything else that's been suggested or implied in any way. My supporter, Mr. Dolynny, I believe, is owed a true apology by the press, because their depiction created and surrounded his involvement in the campaign. He drove his personal vehicle to and from work. That's it.

Mr. Speaker, size apparently does matter, because the reporter didn't seem interested, in any way, that my competitors had posters and campaign material and vehicles to show their support. But apparently, in my case, it seems to matter.

I am dismayed that they would suggest, in any way, that rules have been broken in this regard, and the fact that they choose to embarrass the supporter of a campaign on the single fact that their vehicle was larger than anyone else's seems to be sad.

Let's put the facts on the table. The vehicle was on the road for less than two weeks. He drove it from home to work each day, parked it on the street, and at the end of the day, he did a loop down in the community and then went and parked it. It was in transit approximately one hour each day. There were no timers on this. That is just the simple reality. He went to work and went home. There is no reference of personal vehicles of supporters in the Elections Act that needs to be accounted for, let alone a Winnebago. So are we changing the rules just to embarrass a single MLA? I don't know.

The spending report, I think, in the news, tends to ignore minivans, trucks, SUVs, and any pictures on cars, yet it seems to focus in on the one vehicle I had on the road as driven by a supporter by himself. So why change the rules for one person? There was one vehicle driven by one supporter only. Besides, does this reporter feel that we should blame creativity in pointing it out? Again, size

matters. I don't think that was the issue at all. There could be some hidden agenda, I don't know.

There was no money or management of any kind that transpired while this vehicle was on the road. There was no contribution of any sort. Again, the supporter drove his personal vehicle. In my awareness, I don't believe I broke the election process at all. If we are going to start dragging supporters through the mud, I think we do a disservice to the election process by asking for supporters. I have maintained all along, that if this reporter feels that supporters should be listed in the election briefings and reports, then maybe we should have that matter discussed. You know what? There is nothing that states that.

On the other matter, Mr. Speaker, the story appeared to be singly focused with an agenda with a predetermined outcome from the start. I first heard about this inquiry from a reporter in June, because an access was being inquired about. Only a few weeks later, in July, I finally got a phone call from this reporter. On two occasions I had offered to give any information, such as my travel report, any applicable documents, such as the Conflict of Interest Commissioner's letter to me, my letter to the ITI Minister, and the letter from Aurora World Corporation. I offered this, but they seemed not to be interested. I made the point amply clear, when I was being taped in my one-hour interview, which seems to be going to a super extent of showing how willing I am to talk about this issue, yet my clips on the TV are very short.

What MLA, or political figure, would deny, Mr. Speaker, an access to information request by a reporter? That is something they could get on their own, so why would I draw that type of attention? From the start, I was willing to give any information that they requested, and I was quite open about this issue, but they weren't interested.

In terms of the invite -- I don't have much more, Mr. Speaker -- the letter came to the Legislature addressed to me from the vice-president of the Aurora World Corporation, not Mr. Dolynny, which the story seems to imply. If they had accepted those letters, they would have seen that. This letter came to the Legislature and requested me, and any other MLA, to be part of this tourism mission. So there was no conflict, as I see it. Everyone was invited, if they wanted to participate. The reason I contacted the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Mr. Ted Hughes, was because they were offering market rate, which was \$400 plus tax, which equals about \$700. That's very low, so I thought it would be very prudent to contact the commissioner on this issue. Mr. Hughes' written reply instructed me on a few issues, and I will read this in summary. First, copy a letter to the ITI Minister, which I did; and second, if all MLAs were invited at the same special rate, he didn't see a problem. So we are drawing conclusions on this.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the travel issue, as it was, was truly a judgment call within the constituency ability that I have to use my budget to help promote my constituency where I felt it was important. I felt it was important that this industry, from our government, invests about \$100,000 a year, yet it returns over \$16 million, and I have heard it's going to return over \$20 million in this next year. That's something important to my constituency.

I want to finish by saying I have always maintained that if I am wrong, I would be happy to correct my election statement at any time. I would be happy to seek any advice directed to me by Mr. McLean to make this a fair process. I have never denied that, and I have always said that very loud and clear.

So I am very disappointed by the newscast portraying that some unscrupulous act has happened. I am tired of this, and that's why I brought this statement forward today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Chair would just like to remind Members on points of privilege, that the rules clearly state that you have to be clear and precise on the issue of privilege. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

## ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

### Minister's Statement 54-15(4): GNWT Strategic Plan - Progress Report

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, a little over a year ago, the government released its strategic plan: Self-Reliant People, Communities and Northwest Territories - A Shared Responsibility. This plan was based on a vision and a set of goals established by this Legislative Assembly.

The GNWT, along with many partners, have been working hard, over the past 16 months, to advance the priorities and actions contained in this plan in order to achieve these goals and realize this vision.

I met with Caucus last December. I made a commitment to report on our progress each fall and make the report public. Later this afternoon, I will table the 2005 progress report, along with a detailed companion document: 2005 Compendium of NWT-Wide Measures.

The progress report is the first of its kind. It demonstrates, in one document, the major achievements of this government since taking office two years ago. It shows how these accomplishments support the priorities of the government and, ultimately, the vision and goals of this Legislature. It also provides detailed information on activities that support the 73 actions identified in the strategic plan, so that it is clear to you, the public we serve, what work is being done and how it supports the direction set by this Assembly.

It is equally important to know, Mr. Speaker, whether the collective efforts of the government and partners are actually making a difference. There is not often a direct relationship between action and results, and changes for the better are often realized over years, or generations, rather than a single year. However, it is vital we

understand where we are today, and if we are changing for the better.

The compendium presents a broad picture of how well we are doing in our territory at this time. Selected measures and indicators have been identified for each of the five goals of the strategic plan. Where available, information from past years has also been presented so that we are able to measure progress.

Mr. Speaker, these documents contain a lot of very useful information about the work of the government, and the status of our communities and territory. This update on the strategic plan gives us all a better understanding of where we are in advancing our agenda and the work that remains to be done with our partners. It is my hope that these two documents will stimulate thinking and discussion about our next steps, so that we make informed decisions about where to focus our energies in our last two years in office.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to thank GNWT employees for their contribution to the government's achievements. I would also like to thank the non-profit and business sectors, as well as aboriginal and community governments, for working with us to advance many of these actions. I would also like to recognize the Members of this House for your input at many stages of the government's work, and your desire to achieve the vision of "self-reliant individuals and families, sharing the rewards and responsibilities of healthy communities and a prosperous and unified Northwest Territories."

We have accomplished a great deal in a very short period of time. But we also know much remains to be done; for example, we must deal with the persistent, destructive social issues found in many of our communities, and look at ways to bring down the cost of living. We must be ready to take advantage of economic development opportunities that are at our doorstep, while protecting the health of our land, wildlife and people. We must invest in our children and youth, the future of our communities. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

### Minister's Statement 55-15(4): Changes In Corporate Tax Revenues

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise Members of new information the government has received very recently, which has required us to review our fiscal situation and revise the fiscal outlook I provided to this House on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

As Members are aware, the federal government administers income taxes, both personal and corporate, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. On Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, the Department of Finance received information from the federal government that our corporate income tax collections for the 2004 taxation year are approximately \$30 million less than previously estimated. This reduction has also affected our forecast of corporate income tax revenues for 2005 and for future

years, and significantly reduces the budget surplus figures I provided to Members on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

I would stress that these are preliminary numbers.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, this revenue reduction is very disturbing news, given that the NWT economy is growing rapidly. With the level of economic activity we are seeing, we would expect tax revenues to grow, as well. We will be working with the Canada Revenue Agency to determine the reasons for the decline.

The uncertainty we face with respect to our tax revenues is magnified by further uncertainty surrounding our formula financing arrangements with Canada for 2006-07 and beyond. Until we hear the recommendations of the federal Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing and how the federal government intends to act on those recommendations, our fiscal outlook is difficult to predict.

This situation points, more than ever, to the need for an adequate resource revenue sharing agreement with the federal government. Such an agreement must provide the Northwest Territories with enough revenues to withstand the impact of sudden changes to our fiscal situation.

In this environment, Mr. Speaker, it is only prudent that we examine the expenditure side of our budget. In fact, the fiscal responsibility policy that this government adopted earlier this year requires us to bring spending in line with our revenues. We will be looking at means to do this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Minister's Statement 56-15(4):  
Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Of Health  
Annual Conference**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I attended the annual conference of federal/provincial/territorial Ministers of Health in Toronto.

The primary focus of the meeting was to follow up on a number of specific commitments related to the implementation of the 10-year plan to strengthen health care, signed by all First Ministers in the fall of 2004.

I would like to take a few minutes to provide an update on some of the key discussions that took place, those of significant national interest, and those that are of particular importance to the NWT.

**Wait Times**

The issue of wait times received significant media coverage across Canada in recent weeks, leading up to the meeting. A "wait time" is how long you must wait for a specific medical procedure, from the time when the procedure is formally booked in the hospital until it has actually carried out.

At the 2004 First Ministers' meeting, it was agreed that by December 31, 2005, benchmarks for wait times are to be developed for the five priority areas: cancer, heart,

diagnostic imaging, joint replacements, and sight restoration. "Benchmarks" represent the maximum amount of time patients should be waiting for specific procedures.

At the meeting, the provinces, territories and federal government confirmed that a first set of benchmarks will be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Several jurisdictions across Canada, including Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, have wait times listings and registries posted on the Internet. The NWT will have a similar capability in 2006 for procedures performed in the NWT, beginning with basic wait list information early in the new year and more detailed information, similar to the Alberta wait list registry, by the spring. For medical procedures the NWT residents receive in Alberta, they can access the Alberta web site for information.

**National Pharmaceuticals Strategy**

In follow-up to the National Pharmaceuticals Strategy announced in 2004, Ministers reaffirmed the commitment to continue to work towards protecting Canadians from financial hardship due to catastrophic drug costs. This issue has been recently highlighted nationally by media coverage of a number of rare diseases, including Fabry's disease, which requires expensive drug therapy.

Ministers agreed to expand the common drug review to work toward consistency regarding which drugs are covered by provincial/territorial health care plans.

**Pandemic Influenza Emergency Preparedness**

Building on the Canadian influenza pandemic plan released in February 2004, the topic of ensuring that Canada is better prepared for a pandemic influenza outbreak was also discussed at the meeting. The federal government gave an overview of the international conference on global pandemic preparedness that it is hosting in Ottawa yesterday and today.

**Crystal Meth**

Ministers agreed that a collaborative approach is needed among federal, provincial and territorial governments as well as stakeholders in Education, Justice and Health, to address the issue of crystal meth in our communities. The federal government has agreed to explore how to control the chemicals used in manufacturing methamphetamines.

**Blueprint For Aboriginal Health**

Of particular interest to the NWT and our two northern neighbours was the discussion on the draft blueprint on aboriginal health. At a September 2004 meeting of First Ministers and national aboriginal leaders, direction was given to develop an action plan to improve health service for all aboriginal peoples, to close the gap between the health status of aboriginal peoples and the Canadian public.

Over the last number of months, each jurisdiction, as well as the various national aboriginal organizations, has conducted consultations and prepared submissions to form the basis for the national blueprint on aboriginal health. Once finalized, the blueprint on aboriginal health document will be presented at the November 2005 First Ministers' meeting on aboriginal issues. The NWT continues to send the message that the federal

government needs to acknowledge its fiduciary obligation for health services for aboriginal people, and that any new initiatives arising from the blueprint need to be accompanied with financial resources to implement them.

Mr. Speaker, as we try to do at every national meeting we attend, I met with my territorial counterparts, Minister Leona Aglukkaq from Nunavut and Minister Peter Jenkins from the Yukon. Along with our officials, we took time in Toronto to discuss a number of issues of mutual concern to determine how we may best work together to present a strong, united northern voice at the national table.

One of the outstanding issues for all three territories is the progress towards the finalization of the transfer of funds related to the territorial health access fund committed by the federal government in September 2004. Department officials of the three territories met in Ottawa yesterday with senior officials from Health Canada, Northern Secretariat, to continue to move this forward. This has been a lengthy process and negotiation, which will hopefully be concluded by the end of this calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya,

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Beverage Container Program

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak to you about the lack of beverage container recycling facilities in the Sahtu. Woody Allen once said, "In Beverly Hills, they don't throw their garbage away, they make it into television shows."

Well, the Sahtu must be like Beverly Hills, because I wouldn't be throwing away our garbage either; we can't afford to. November 1, 2005, is when the container program is supposed to begin. As far as I know, there isn't one facility in the Sahtu that will take our containers or refund our money.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Shame.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** So this means that my constituents and I are either going to be stockpiling our bottles in our limited housing, or throwing them away at a personal loss. Mr. Speaker, we already suffer a high cost of living. I don't understand how the Minister of ENR can rationalize going ahead with this program until all the communities can recycle. This is not fair to the Sahtu. We need a recycling plant, too. Mr. Speaker, I am really scared that this is the precedent-setting mood. What programs are allowed to merge, and what programs will, probably, in our case, exclude our segment of the population.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with recycling 100 percent; I agree with protecting the environment 100 percent; but I don't agree that 75 percent of the Territories should be able to recycle and get refunded, while the rest of the population, such as the Sahtu, has to pay for it, just like many other things that they do in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

#### Member's Statement On Beverage Container Program

**MR. POKIAK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleagues, I believe that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources should be applauded for introducing the NWT beverage container recycling program. This program will reduce the amount of garbage in our landfills.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are problems. I did receive a number of calls, prior to session, from businesses like the Northern Store and Co-op, as well as concerned citizens, over the fact that implementation will mean that prices will go up to pay for the cost of the recycling program. Many NWT residents rely on income support and will suffer because of the increased costs to purchase beverages.

In my region, Mr. Speaker, there will be less work because the industry has scaled back in their operations. This means there may be more people on income support. Mr. Speaker, this is big concern for local residents and vendors. There are also concerns with how the refund program will work in the smaller communities that are not on the regular highway system.

Mr. Speaker, Tuktoyaktuk has a recycling program in place right now, but it is voluntary and no one gets paid for turning their empties in. How will they get refunds once the program starts and they are paying more for beverages?

Mr. Speaker, as the MLA for Nunakput, I would like to request this government to reconsider the implementation of the program until such time as the refund programs are set up. Nunakput residents already pay the highest for food; we don't need to pay more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Member's Statement On Support And Guidelines Required For Day Care Programs

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about day care. We have watched many day care centres open and, subsequently, close their doors. We have to ask ourselves why.

We talk about support for families and women in this Legislature, and is there anything more important to a student, or working mother, than knowing that her child or children are in good caring and capable hands? We need standards; we need reporting mechanisms; we need program guidelines; and we need safety and quality control. I don't know how many Members of this House have had the responsibility of caring for someone else's pre-schoolers, but, Mr. Speaker, it is a very demanding job that requires a high degree of commitment.

Day care workers are required to be temporary mom or dad, nurse, teacher, cook, referee and counsellor, and the list goes on. For the owners or managers there is the additional role of business manager, bookkeeper,



accounts payable, account receivable, invoicing, ordering supplies and groceries, and dealing with the challenges of the CCRA, GST remittances, and timely reporting to potential funders such as the GNWT.

As a government, we need to look beyond issuing the edicts of how things shall be done. We need to see if there are ways that we can come along side and offer support; yes, even in a hands-on way to operators who may have an invaluable service to offer to the community, to working or studying parents, but who need a little support to help them meet all the rules and requirements related to their undertaking.

If day care is done right, providing good programming, educational materials and equipment, nutritional snacks and lunches, trained staff and proper staff child ratios, day care is a non-profit business. In order to plan even one month in advance, an operator needs to know how many children will be in their care; they need to know that their sources of revenue are going to be consistent and reliable, and there should be no such thing as a daily rate. There should only be monthly rates for spaces, and this should also include the support from ECE programs. This should be all payable in advance, based on spaces available and the number of children who will be attending.

Mr. Speaker, I think, as a government, we need to recognize the importance of access to quality day care services. We need to recognize that some families may require support to access that service, and we need to recognize that direct financial support may be the only thing that will make the difference between success and/or failure of a facility. We need to think creatively about how we can remove barriers that hold people back from bettering themselves and the lives of their children.

So far, Mr. Speaker, I don't think we have done that. Either we don't believe it's important, or we just need a woman or a mother on the other side of the floor in that Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Ohhh.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Barriers To Day Care Program Success**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, day cares in the North are closing. They have been closing in Yellowknife, and many other places, because of the inadequacy in funding. There is not enough money to find and pay for suitable locations to run them, and when a group of dedicated volunteers get together and get a centre going, they quickly learn that the subsidy they receive from the government is not enough to keep the facility going.

Day care funding is inequitable in so many ways. Some kids need more attention than others, and when kids don't show up, for some reason, the day cares are not paid. Goodness knows, these day cares are not operating on a podgy core funding budget. Day care workers are notoriously underpaid. When all these centres fail, the

government puts up their hands and say, "Oh, golly gee, I wonder what happened."

Instead of picking an action to find the solution, they look around to see who they can blame, Mr. Speaker. First, it's the federal government: "Well Mr. Speaker, the federal government announced their \$5 billion program months ago and everyone here knows that is always an uphill battle to get ourselves outside of the per capita financing formula box."

It would have taken a well organized, concerted effort on the part of the entire Cabinet to fight this battle and win it. So where has this Cabinet been all this time, Mr. Speaker, why such a surprise?

Last week, when answering questions, Premier Handley kept saying that he needed financial records from the centre, as though there is some kind of financial wrongdoing. When asked, Minister Dent tells me that there is no such suggestion, it's just that there is not enough money. So then what was up with all those questions from the Premier, and why does the department keep sending letters to the day care, asking for things that they don't understand? Why don't they try to spend the time finding solutions and assistance?

The lack of ability to move on this file on the part of the Minister is very disturbing, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, when answering questions to Mrs. Groenewegen about a possibility of giving the day care contributions directly to the day care itself, the Minister says he will consider it, but he has to get the request from the centre.

His wait-and-react attitude is really getting on my nerves, Mr. Speaker. What is up with all the things that we are saying -- the Status of Women Council, Members Lafferty and Groenewegen -- is he not listening? He even suggested that he didn't get any direction from the Social Programs committee. Well, if he thinks that he can get more action out of this side of the floor, Mr. Speaker, I will happily give up my seat and take over his seat...

---Laughter

...and show him how I can do things without waiting for the world to fall apart. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

**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, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are so many more disturbing excuses that have been made in this House, and I am going to pursue that further. I can also tell you that I received an e-mail from Minister Miltenberger on this issue, that basically states that what I say here or what we say is completely irrelevant, and I am going to make sure that the Members on that side know that what we do matters, and that people out there want us to address these issues. I intend to pursue that for the rest of the day and the rest of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Beverage Container Program**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend, on Saturday, I spent a few hours with some other volunteers bagging groceries at the local Co-op store as a fundraiser. It was a very successful afternoon, Mr. Speaker, but as I was packing the groceries along the conveyor belt there, it was hard not to notice the number of containers, cans and packages that go through the grocery tills and, of course, in our homes that contain the food that we eat. In another seven days, Mr. Speaker, we are going to be passing along, for any beverage that people choose to buy in these containers, an extra 15 cents apiece. If you are a mother that goes through several juice boxes a week, you might find yourself several dollars behind because of that expense. If you go through a few cans of pop or juice at home, if you go through any other kind of beverage, you are going to be paying an extra 15 cents apiece.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the information there that has already been circulated on this program, and that we are going to see more of, suggests that there is maybe 10 cents that one is going to be out of pocket. The reality is that it is 15 cents that is coming out of the consumer's pocket. They will get 10 cents back if they live in a community, Mr. Speaker, where there is a depot, or they can take that container back and get refunded.

Mr. Speaker, I have had quite a bit of traffic from constituents who are really alarmed at the unfairness of this program as we know it today where, especially, really in the small communities, there is a huge unfairness going on here, because those consumers will not be able to take their containers back and get their refund, yet they are going to be charged. People in the bigger communities, including Yellowknife, have got a good system, and we can rely on that. We certainly support the efforts that are behind this program for recycling. But we have a major problem to fix in its implementation at the small community level, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Beverage Container Program**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some people say, "Think real and get green" with this recyclable legislation. I say, "Think green, but let's get real."

---Laughter

Are we ready, Mr. Speaker, to load up our garbage and move to Beverly?

---Laughter

Recently, on the local radio station, a study was referenced indicating that a lot of people feel that the GNWT is out of touch with the average residents of the NWT with regard to this piece of legislation that is going to be implemented on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Speaker, there are unique conditions and limitations of small and remote communities that have to be taken into consideration. The small communities of Nahendeh have difficulty enough transporting essential goods in and out. This additional burden, through environmental and handling levies, would be just too much. This will require people to pay more, but will get their money back when they return their empties, in a period where the cost of living is skyrocketing and out of control in the communities, and healthy living is quickly becoming a lifestyle of the privileged and the rich. This year, the residents will have to cope with skyrocketing costs of fuel, heating fuels, and groceries, and now this. This is too much, I say, too much.

If there is a program in the community, Mr. Speaker -- that is a big if -- many communities will have to stockpile their recyclables until the barge or winter road is established, unless the GNWT is willing to fly out their recyclables on their many empty charters that go into the communities. Has this government evaluated the skyrocketing costs of fuel and how much fuel it will require to transport the recyclables not only to the nearest depot, but to the nearest facility? Mr. Speaker, the communities are not ready for this type of program, but, perhaps, Yellowknife is.

Lastly, I want to clarify that I have, and will always, support green legislation, Mr. Speaker. I recognize the importance of a healthy environment from having lived most of my years on the land, hunting, harvesting and learning from my elders. Although the fundamental objective is good, their approach needs some changes, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Rehabilitation Services**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to speak about rehabilitation services and the teams. Rehabilitation services in the NWT will be provided through teams made of rehabilitation professionals who travel to the communities to address their needs. Mr. Speaker, the rehab team is a very broad category. It involves the kinds of services that most people think of immediately, such as physiotherapy, a service to help people get back on their feet after an accident or injury, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology, and audiology which are all under rehab services, Mr. Speaker.

An important part of the work that rehabilitation professionals do, Mr. Speaker, takes place in schools throughout the North. They work with children who may be suffering from cognitive or physical disabilities that get in the way of their learning, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague for Range Lake has previously pointed out, the special needs for children in the NWT is staggering, Mr. Speaker.

Rehabilitation professionals can identify, and assist, a child's needs and make plans to address them. This makes a big difference for teachers who can, then, focus on doing what they do best: teaching our children. From problems that relate to being undiagnosed, it can be disruptive for an entire classroom, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the government for the work they are doing to address the rehabilitation needs in the Northwest Territories. In my view, this is a very good use of government funding.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, is waiting time; for a business, from the current rehabilitation team, is too far along. In my region, the waiting time for the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School is as long as six weeks. Mr. Speaker, I pointed out that the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School is a regional high school. What goes on there affects young people from across the Tlicho region.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Behchoko is an important regional centre for the Tlicho region. It is also the largest aboriginal centre in the Northwest Territories and can serve as a base for the teams that visit communities in the Deh Cho as well as Monfwi, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### **Member's Statement On Condolences On The Passing Of Pat Lyall**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass on my condolences to a friend and colleague, Calvin Pokiak, on the loss of his sister. It is always difficult when we lose members of our family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform this House of the passing of a northern leader. Pat Lyall was known to many of us as a person of great character, and for his tireless work on behalf of northern people. Pat was in Taloyoak, in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. Prior to 1999, he served the Northwest Territories and, subsequently, Nunavut with commitment, wisdom and diligence in many capacities.

Most recently, Pat was chairman of the board of the Nunasi Corporation for 15 years, and both chair and vice-chair of Norterra for the same period of time. Pat was an advocate for the furtherance of Inuit people and their culture, and a respected businessman. He devoted boundless energy towards promoting Inuit culture to southern audiences, and raising awareness of northern issues across the country. Raising money for youth initiatives was always on his mind, and he was extremely successful in this regard. He raised an enormous amount of money so northern youth could travel to participate in sporting and cultural activities across Canada, thereby broadening their horizons, becoming more experienced and successful as individuals, and ready to share in a newfound knowledge with their peers. Pat was a dedicated family man, proud of his children and committed to his community. He had a great sense of fun and a ready smile. I would like to offer my personal sympathy, and ask all Members to join me in offering our deepest condolences to Pat's wife, Leah, his family, many friends, and loved ones. He leaves behind a legacy of good work and he will be deeply missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Beverage Container Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to express my personal condolences to the Lyall family and the Pokiak family for the loss of two great northerners, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express some of my concerns about the Beverage Container Program in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that will be put into effect November 1, 2005. Mr. Speaker, currently there are eight community depots approved for licensing, which represents 76 percent of the Northwest Territories population. This is a good indication that northerners are supportive of everyone's environmental responsibilities and recognize the important role that recycling will have toward retaining a pristine northern environment for future generations to enjoy. This type of positive response, Mr. Speaker, is something that makes me proud to be a northerner.

But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot dismiss the legitimate concerns the other 24 percent of our population, who are approximately 11,000 people spread across 14 remote communities, have expressed. Although six of these remote communities have expressed interest in operating a depot, none has been approved to date. We are still left with many people who will experience more increases in beverage costs at their local stores, and who will be very limited in their ability to return their containers to receive a refund, simply due to the facts that: one, the costs to store and ship their beverage containers will be above the amount of their refund, making it uneconomical for households to participate; and two, the sheer remoteness of some northern communities does not allow this type of program to be economically feasible for anyone interested in operating a depot, not when they have to sort, store and ship the empty containers to a processing facility which could be very expensive not only because of the high cost of fuel, but also because of the long distances between these remote communities and the three communities with processing facilities and operation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this program has to be considerate of the fact that the 24 percent of the population who are restricted in the number of options to receive refunds, and who have the highest cost of living in the Northwest Territories, will be contributing not by choice to an environmental fund from which they will not receive any benefits. This issue, Mr. Speaker, is very important and should be addressed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources prior to the implementation of the beverage container fees in these remote communities. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Addictions Treatment Centres**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after hearing that our tax revenues were \$30 million less

than what we were expecting, I felt guilty about the contents of my Member's statement. But I am over that now.

---Laughter

That is why I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to speak on the need, again, for treatment centres and appropriate addictions programs throughout the Northwest Territories.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear! Hear!

---Applause

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, during our pre-budget consultations, we heard from many communities that firmly believe that there is a need for regional treatment centres where there will be proper follow-up for clients. Many residents are saying that they need a regional treatment centre, whether they be on-the-land camps, or a facility in town. Why isn't this government listening to their concerns? They are not asking for multi-million dollar facilities, but either bush camps or well designed energy-efficient buildings, new or existing, that the programs can be run out of.

Mr. Speaker, more and more young people are drinking and doing drugs. When they cry out for help, we need to have the capacity to the system in the region and not have to send them away. By having them closer to home, they can have their family's support network when they need it, or want it. Mr. Speaker, some of the hardest working people I have ever met have now, unfortunately, become slaves to their addiction. If we have treatment camps in the regions, many of these people, and also our youth, can go out on the land and reconnect and see what they are missing, by the lifestyle that they have chosen or want to escape from. As a young man I knew once said, being on the land is very therapeutic.

This also brings me to my next point, which is, the people seeking help should be able to get it from someone who has lived in the region and has experienced the lifestyle. There are a lot of folks who might not have a degree this government recognizes, but who have a degree in life and can better relate to the problems facing recovering alcoholics.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to give people what they have said over and over again. We need to help people with addictions and not change this policy to the point to where they are phasing out people with degrees in life who have a ton of experience to offer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Kam Lake Access Road**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The subject of my Member's statement today will come as no surprise to my colleagues in this Assembly, as it has to do with an issue that is very important to both my riding and the city of Yellowknife. That is the issue of the Kam Lake access road, and the secondary access into and out of the city of Yellowknife.

I have taken this issue up with the government from a variety of different angles. The first is from the standpoint of public safety, because of the increased heavy traffic on Old Airport Road and the fact that Highway No. 3 is the only way in and out of the city of Yellowknife. In case of emergencies, like we saw with the CF-18 -- the one that went off the runway -- and another one that dropped a missile on the golf course, we have experiences there that show that emergencies can happen, Mr. Speaker. Both of these incidents effectively shut down Highway No. 3. Mr. Speaker, the question has to be asked, "What if a major incident happened at the Yellowknife Airport?" From a public safety standpoint, this road, and secondary access into and out of Yellowknife, has to be addressed. With the Kam Lake industrial park also having only one way in and out, we also have been very lucky that a major accident or a spill hasn't taken place on Kam Lake Road which would cut residents and businesses off.

Of course, road infrastructure does not come without a hefty pricetag. The estimate that I have heard would be in the neighbourhood of \$5.5 million to build this road. The questions have been: who would build, and be responsible for, the road; how would it be paid for; and the land availability issue. I have asked the Minister of Transportation many questions in the past about where this road is in his department's plans. I was very surprised when I read intently the Minister's press release on the National Highway Strategy dated October 14<sup>th</sup> where there was absolutely no mention made of a Kam Lake access road. Would it not have made sense to put this vital piece of roadwork into this strategy? This would ensure that federal dollars would eventually be your mark to help build this road. I don't understand its omission from the National Highway Strategy, and, Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned that, to my knowledge, it is not included in the Corridors for Canada II proposal. Why is this road not in there? Why are we not making every effort and exploring every possible funding source to make sure that this road gets built? Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Transportation at the appropriate time. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

#### **Member's Statement On Day Care Services In Fort Smith**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am the MLA for Thebacha. I have been now for nine or 10 years. In those 10 years, I have been involved with the day cares. I have been involved with closures, relocations, getting furnishings for day care, helping day cares reopen, and I am currently working with the Salt River First Nation as they put some of their own land claim money toward building a new child centre that will, hopefully, have a day care attached to it. So I am intimately involved, probably more intimately involved than any other MLA in this House on what is going on in my community.

The Member for Range Lake made reference to an e-mail that I sent to the executive director of the day care that is currently experiencing some trouble. It wasn't addressed to her. She imputed some interpretation to that e-mail that is grossly incorrect. I just want to make the point that I

appreciate Members raising issues in my constituency, but I don't particularly...The reason I stand up for the Member's statement, I want to make the case. I am the MLA. I know what is happening in my community. We have been working with day cares for 10 years. Referencing e-mails that weren't sent to the individual, and misinterpreting them, is not appropriate. I think it creates a false impression that is far from the truth. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take this opportunity to respond to the statement that the Member for Thebacha just raised. I do believe it calls for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Member is rising on a point of order. What is your point of order, Ms. Lee?

#### Point Of Order

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that the statement made by the Member for Thebacha was a Member's statement, so I am not responding to his statement as a point of order. I am raising my own point of order because I believe the Member is suggesting that I am somehow suggesting things and colouring them in a bad light.

I just want to say that my point of order, Mr. Speaker...He is suggesting, somehow, that I am not being true and following the rules of the House, and that, somehow, I am colouring his personality or characteristics, Mr. Speaker. My point is that I did receive that e-mail. The point I was making...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, may I have an opportunity to explain my position? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. I would just like to remind Members that the Member is raising a point of order. I would like the Member to state her point of order, and then there will be a chance to debate the point of order. Ms. Lee, what is your point of order?

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to explain what my point of order is. I don't have the Member's rulebook handy, but if I remember the number, I believe it's under Rule 26(c), and probably at the end of that section, subsection (h), which speaks to Members raising issues that question the integrity of a Member.

The Member for Thebacha is suggesting, somehow, that I am speaking falsehood, or that I am, somehow, suggesting that he is not being a good Member, or that I am saying things that are not true. All I was simply suggesting in my statement, which he is responding to, is that I got an e-mail. It was sent to me. I did not steal it. I didn't grab it out of his office. It was sent to me. The Member suggests that this is a done deal and there is no point in addressing this issue, because Cabinet has

decided that they are not going to do anything for this day care. I suggest to you that I have a privilege, as a Member of this House, to raise issues that are of concern to all of the Territories. I have tried to not focus it as a Fort Smith issue, but have tried to raise it as a day care issue.

I would like to suggest that if there is any suggestion made by the Member for Thebacha that I am somehow using this forum to suggest that he is not being a good Member, or that he is not telling the truth, or imputing any kind of motive, I believe that's not correct. I believe I have the right to raise issues that are brought to me that have territorial importance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lee. The Chair will allow debate on the point of order. To the point of order. Thank you. The Chair will review Hansard and come back with a ruling on the point of order.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was just so excited about recognizing my constituents in the gallery today. I'd like to recognize Mr. Rocky Simpson, a very innovative businessman from Hay River who's involved in manufacturing and a lot of other aspects of the oilfield business. I'd also like to recognize my constituency assistant again today, Wendy Morgan. Then three other ladies in the front row there. Now, I have to tell you, Stacey Barnes, on the end, is sitting beside her mom, who is Elaine Volk, and Elaine Volk is sitting beside her mom, who is Vivienne Smith. Vivienne Smith is an occasional and frequent visitor to Hay River from Newfoundland, and she's very politically active back in Newfoundland. I'm so pleased that she can see the workings of our unique Assembly here. I'm just hoping that, on one of these frequent visits to Hay River, she'll just decide to just move to Hay River. We have a wonderful community of Newfoundlanders in Hay River, and she would be such a good addition. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize National Chief Nolene Villebrun, and I think it's Lawrence, from Rocher River. I'd also like, Mr. Speaker, to recognize Trevor Harding, a former Member of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, a Minister of Energy, Minister of Economic Development, and also leader of the opposition, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize the Dene national chief and former constituent, Nolene Villebrun, and a former constituent of

mine who still has a lot of family back in my constituency, Lawrence Beaulieu. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a constituent and local businesswoman, Ms. Karen Hollett, who owns Arctic Wild Harvest here in Yellowknife. Welcome.

---Applause

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a Page from Behchoko, Timerin Tinqu, who is here. Welcome.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pride today to recognize my sister Betty Hardisty, who's up there in the gallery and in town on business from Fort Simpson.

---Applause

As well, I'd like to recognize my Yellowknife constituency assistant, Mr. Philip Moon Son, his wife, Katherine, his daughter Chloe, and also a big welcome to Phil's mother, a visitor from Toronto, Lucy Son.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just also wanted to recognize a number of people that have been recognized already. First of all, Nolene Villebrun, Dene Nation grand chief; also, Betty Hardisty from the Deh Cho; and Rocky Simpson, who has a company located on the Hay River Reserve and is in the well-site rental business, and he tells me that he's recently entered the trailer manufacturing business, and will have a trailer rolling off the assembly lines shortly. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know these people have been recognized already, but I'd like to make a special mention of Mr. Phil Son and his wife, Katherine, and his mother, Lucy Son, visiting from Toronto. They're Korean Canadians, and we share that in common. I'd like to welcome Mrs. Son into the North. I'd also like to recognize Karen Hollett, who makes great

syrup out of local berries. She owns Arctic Wild Harvest. I'd like to welcome her to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery today, I'd like to welcome everybody to the Assembly today. It's always nice to have an audience up there viewing our proceedings. So welcome. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

## ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

### Question 244-15(4): Day Care Services

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for Mr. Dent. In reviewing all the questions and answers yesterday, with regard to this day care issue, Mr. Speaker, this is not about Fort Smith day care, so the Member for Thebacha doesn't have to worry about that aspect of it. This is a day care issue for all of the Northwest Territories.

This is just the latest day care closing, and I think that we have to draw the line here and make the Minister account for the inadequacy in the program and doing something about it. So far, the Minister is indicating there is nothing he can do about this, it's all got to be a budget process, we need extra money, blah, blah, blah. I mean, any robot could say that, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to know what he has in plan for dozens of mothers of children in school who are not going to have day care service after this Friday. Is he aware of any places where they're going to be able to go to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Return To Question 244-15(4): Day Care Services

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The college has been working with students to help them find appropriate care for their children, and they will continue to do that. I understand that they've found appropriate placements for a number of students, and they will continue to work with those who haven't yet found replacement places.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

### Supplementary To Question 244-15(4): Day Care Services

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the detail is, but, obviously, the Minister and the Cabinet have decided that they're not going to help with keeping this place open. Aurora College sent a letter telling them to get out on October 28<sup>th</sup>, even though the lease is in place. The college has taken steps to look for alternatives. If there's any new day care that's going to replace this, they're going to need operating funding and contribution funding and such. So why is it that the Minister is insisting on letting this program go and start the whole thing all over again? Why is the Minister not willing to help what's there?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 244-15(4): Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm troubled by the allegations the Member is making about the approach the college has taken. Yesterday, the Member asked if I would review the letters that were sent by the college, and by the deputy minister, and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I have; and I find in no way does the college letter sound in any way threatening or make any threats to the operator. What it is doing is responding to a press release that was put out by the operator that said they would be closing on October 28<sup>th</sup>. They note that since you will be closing on October 28<sup>th</sup>, the staff would require all keys to the facility from you on that day. That's a normal course of business. They just want to know that the space is secure, since it's in a college building. This has nothing to do with a threat or saying you've got to get out of here. The letter is just a simple issue of saying if you're going to be shutting down, then it's time to turn over the keys at the time that you shut down. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 244-15(4): Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I don't believe I suggested that it was threatening, but it certainly is seeing the scenario as these people having to move out, and not giving any due consideration to the possibility of the Minister doing anything to help them. So it's all predetermined. That's my point. My point with the e-mail that I got is that it seems that nothing that we do here matters. I don't accept that. I do believe that there is a merit in asking questions and trying to help facilities. So I'd like to ask the Minister why he insists on closing this day care when he is going to be required to provide said money to any other facilities that open there. Why is he not helping day cares to operate and exist? What is the reason? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 244-15(4): Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me be clear here. I'm not shutting down the day care. This particular day care has said that, in order to continue, they need extraordinary funding over and above what is provided through our program. I don't have that flexibility in the budget to do that. So if another operator can find a way to start up, we'll be happy to support that operator with the same sort of contributions that we have right now.

Mr. Speaker, I would dearly love to be able to improve this program. It's my goal, and has been for a long time, to improve the program. I had thought we had a willing partner in the federal government to help us with the money to do that. But we have been under a period of restraint since this Legislative Assembly started. The first year we came into operation, we had to cut millions of dollars from the budget. We just heard today, the Minister of Finance saying that we're going to have to review our budget again. In his statement, he's saying, already today, that we've got some pressures and we may have to be looking at cuts. So I don't have the level of flexibility that the Member seems to think that I have in terms of finding

new money to put from one program into another. I have as a goal finding a way to improve this program, but I don't have the money right now.

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

**Supplementary To Question 244-15(4): Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister would dearly love to be able to help, as he has stated many times, I suggest to you that he could do this. He doesn't have to dip into any other money. He doesn't have to get any help from the federal government. The Minister just stated that if this centre goes down, and they have the lease on the premises already, and if a new group comes forward and asks for operating funding, he's going to give them the money. So he's going to give the new group money, and this old group needs \$20,000 to pay the federal government on source deductions so they can keep going. So why can't he use the same money to help this group out so they can last until Christmas, until the parents can figure out what to do with their kids? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 244-15(4): Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, that would be extraordinary funding. I don't have the flexibility in the program to provide that funding. So what we would do is, if somebody else started the program, we would be prepared to provide the same level of contributions that we would provide in all other programs. So we will support any program that starts up, whether it's the one that's in operation, or a new one, to the same level.

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

**Question 245-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my statement, I talked about the container program that's going to be implemented in seven days by the Government of the Northwest Territories through the ENR department. I want to ask the Minister if he is still going to charge the communities in the Sahtu their recycling fees, even when they can't recycle, as of November 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 245-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fees are attached at source to the distributors, so it's going across the North. We're not dealing with the retailers. So, yes, November 1<sup>st</sup> that fee will affect all beverage containers across the Northwest Territories. I appreciate the Member's point, and, as I

indicated to him, I'm prepared to commit that we will make interim arrangements with every community to make sure that they have an opportunity to get refunds and have their beverage containers recycled, even if we have to use our own resources in the interim. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 245-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister consider having the GNWT recycling depots in my community on hold until they have somebody else in the community, or in the private sector, until they have a proper program in my community? I want to ask the Minister if his department would consider that. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 245-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a program of general application, and the fees that we're charging are put on at the distributor level going across the Territories. So all the bottles that are going into the communities, and containers, will have that fee attached. It's very difficult, or impossible, to single out a community. What I am prepared to do, and I will restate again, is I'm prepared to commit and ensure that every community will have interim arrangements to be able to recycle their beverage containers as we continue to try to set up a more permanent arrangement in the communities that don't currently have them. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 245-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister talks about it being possible for some of the communities to be left in and some left out, but in this case here, this blanket right across the board and in our communities that don't have a depot, he's talking about interim arrangements. In seven days, how can he put a program in each of the communities of the Sahtu that will say to the people when you buy this bottle of pop, you take it there and get a refund? It must be working from magic here. It's inexcusable what this government is doing to these communities that don't have a depot. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 245-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's concern, and let me restate again that we will ensure that every community has the capacity, and all the people in it will have the capacity, to return their bottles to be recycled and get the fees and refunds that are available. Even if we have to, on an interim basis, use our own resources,

we will ensure that every community has that capacity. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 245-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. I better be careful, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the seven days' notice here. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask, in seven days, can this Minister somehow make a strong commitment to this House that the people in the Sahtu can walk over to the renewable resources office, or some operation in the communities, to get their refunds? Can he ensure this? I have no problem supporting this program. It's the program that is not set up right now and he's making some commitment to have some interim measures. I need that from the Minister. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 245-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will commit, and ensure, that every community has the capacity to return, and that every individual in those communities has the capacity to return their beverage containers for a refund, who don't currently have arrangements. That will be set up by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

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

**Question 246-15(4): Need For Audiologists**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, my questions this afternoon are for Mr. Miltenberger, in his capacity as the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Member for Monfwi, spoke of the need for health care professionals in a number of areas, and one of those most critical to many of our population, Mr. Speaker, is the service provided by audiologists. We have been chronically understaffed in this area. Understandably so, Mr. Speaker, because so is the rest of Canada. But among much of our population, especially the very young and the seniors, Mr. Speaker, the need for audiologist technical, professional services is critical, but we are going to be losing that within the next very short while when the one audiologist we have at Stanton, I understand, is going to be leaving. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise on progress to date to recruit and make sure that audiologist services are available at Stanton? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 246-15(4): Need For Audiologists**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing a turnover of audiologists. One is out on a year's leave and will be returning. The other one has given notice that they will be departing at the end of November. We are actively looking for locums, and we're actively recruiting in all the areas,



and using all the resources we have at our disposal, to ensure that we can still provide those services. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 246-15(4): Need For Audiologists**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister for that information. One of the barriers, I understand, that we may be having is that our salary and benefit package to these health care professionals, Mr. Speaker, may not be competitive, may not be up to snuff with what other jurisdictions in Canada are paying. Can the Minister advise the Assembly if we are, indeed, competitive on a pay and benefits scale for this type of professional service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 246-15(4): Need For Audiologists**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've gone through a long process of classification and re-classification, responding to grievances for nurses, as well as other allied health professions, and it's our opinion, at this point, that we are competitive in our pay and benefits. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 246-15(4): Need For Audiologists**

**MR. BRADEN:** You know, Mr. Speaker, in considering some of the background information on this, while we, on the surface, may be on a par with some jurisdictions and falling behind others, one of the things that sets our working environment apart is the amount of travel, the isolation, and the very heavy workload that people in that profession here in the NWT have to deal with. Is that factored into our levels of compensation and benefit, the real working conditions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 246-15(4): Need For Audiologists**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that this area of service is one that requires an infusion of resources. The pay and benefits are one issue, but the fact is, as the Member noted, they often tend to work in isolation with tremendous case loads, and extensive travel and time away from home, which is why we have proposed setting up rehabilitation teams where there would be one in the South Slave, another one in Yellowknife to travel into the Sahtu and Deh Cho, and another one located in Inuvik for the Mackenzie Delta area to cover those areas and recognizing the very points that Mr. Braden raised. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 246-15(4): Need For Audiologists**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, if you're a senior needing a hearing aid, for instance, you almost have to pass through the office of an audiologist. The wait times for these kinds of services are already long enough. Can the Minister give the Assembly, and the people of the North, some idea of when we might expect, even on a locum basis, to have audiologist services based here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 246-15(4): Need For Audiologists**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have planned for, and obtained, locum coverage that will take us over the next few months, and the moment that we're successful at hiring a full-time audiologist or two, then we will be more than happy to share that information with everybody. It's a good-news story when those types of events happen. Thank you.

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

**Question 247-15(4): Liard River Ferry Services**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. My question today is for the Minister of Transportation. It will be no surprise, I imagine, Mr. Speaker, but today is the date that the Minister promised the residents of Fort Simpson and Wrigley that there would be some form of action taking place with respect to resuming ferry services. I'm just wondering what has been occurring today to have that service resumed, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 247-15(4): Liard River Ferry Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we did set a deadline of 8:00 this morning for the contractor to resume ferry operations at the Liard River. That did not happen. We have since terminated the contract with the contractor. We have officially given him notice, or hand delivered termination papers. We have made the offer to the employees, and they have all agreed to sign on. We are now working through the logistics of doing safety inspections, and plan to have the ferry in operation either sometime tonight or early tomorrow morning. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**Supplementary To Question 247-15(4): Liard River Ferry Services**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That's the kind of action that the people just asked for, is

that we resume the services. We still believe it could have been done earlier, Mr. Speaker, but the people will be very happy because every day that was wasted was a day that we didn't have the ferry. But can the government guarantee, to the people and to the transportation companies, some uninterrupted services so that we can get the much-needed supplies in? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 247-15(4): Liard River Ferry Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We commit to making every effort to have the ferry run until the end of the normal operating season. However, we were also notified today that the water has dropped significantly. So it is a concern. However, we will try to ensure that the resupply gets done, and that the ferry operates as long as it can this season. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 247-15(4): Liard River Ferry Services**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I guess the question I was asking is, is the government in any position to create a bulletin for transportation companies to say yes, you can bring your fuels to Fort Simpson because the ferry will be guaranteed to run for at least 10 days? I think they were looking for some guarantee that they can get their trucks across and back again, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 247-15(4): Liard River Ferry Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are providing a press release, as we speak. We will notify the trucking industry. We will notify the communities. We will notify the general public. We will operate the ferry as long as we can this year, providing that the water levels are at the level that we need to cross with the ferry, and providing we don't have a mechanical breakdown. We commit to operating the service for the duration of the season. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 247-15(4): Liard River Ferry Services**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to know what efforts have been taken in Fort Simpson to advise the population that the ferry services will resume in Fort Simpson. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 247-15(4): Liard River Ferry Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The leaders of the community will be contacted, and also there will be a press release informing the general public, and also industry and communities, as I said, that this

service will resume. We have our fingers crossed. We are hoping that ferry service will resume sometime later this evening. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**Question 248-15(4): Kam Lake Access Road**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Michael McLeod. I have talked extensively about the Kam Lake access road, and what it means to the city of Yellowknife, in this Assembly for the past two years. It has been an issue with the city of Yellowknife since I can remember being elected to Yellowknife City Council, as far back as 1997. Money seems to be one way that this road might be able to get built. I would like to ask the Minister, today, why the Kam Lake access road was excluded from the National Highway Strategy that he announced back on October 14<sup>th</sup>? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 248-15(4): Kam Lake Access Road**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kam Lake bypass road, or the access to the west side of the airport, is something that is fairly important to us. It is also an issue of importance to the city. We have been working on this whole initiative for some time now. I think we have made significant development in that area. We have developed a design for that road. We have also been able to narrow the cost of that road. We anticipate that road is going to be somewhere in the \$4.5 million mark. We are working towards putting in our needs assessment. Right now, we have committed to paying for a portion of that road that goes and leads to the access where we would get on to the airport side, or the airport reserve lands. We have not included it in our national submissions. This is a municipal road, still. It is not a road of national importance, or of strategic importance, for the Government of Canada, so it doesn't really qualify for that criteria. Having said that, it is still an important road. We recognize the importance, in terms of safety and other issues, around this road, and we continue to move forward and work on the development of this project.

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

**Supplementary To Question 248-15(4): Kam Lake Access Road**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's response. I think that the government should be beating every bush that is out there with the federal government, to try to get some money to get the road built so that we don't have... Hopefully, we can leverage some of the funds that we have with federal dollars to get the road built. That is why I think it should have been part of the National Highway Strategy. I think it is an important piece of roadwork here in the capital city that should have got the attention that it deserves. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if the department

has considered putting the Kam Lake access road into the Corridors for Canada, II proposal that they are currently working on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 248-15(4): Kam Lake Access Road**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Kam Lake access road doesn't qualify for Corridors for Canada II for the same reasons it doesn't fall as a national road. A bypass road in the municipality doesn't qualify for national importance. We've looked at it. It doesn't meet the criteria. It really doesn't make any sense to try to include it. It wouldn't get acceptance anyway. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 248-15(4): Kam Lake Access Road**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I have to disagree with the Minister. I think this road is a very important piece of road infrastructure in a capital city. I have outlined, a number of times, for the Minister, and for the government, the public safety aspect of it. I would like to see the road built, Mr. Speaker. I know the Minister has said today that it is going to cost a little bit less than what was first anticipated. When can the citizens of Yellowknife, and the city of Yellowknife, hope to get this road built? When does the Minister see it happening and becoming a reality? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 248-15(4): Kam Lake Access Road**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this road will get built when it is decided who is going to pay for it, and when all the aspects of this bypass road are in place. There are issues over land. There are issues over who would be managing this road. There are a number of things that are still outstanding. We need to work these out. We have committed to working with the city. We recognize it is an important road, but we don't have all the answers, at this point. We are including it in our business plans and our long-term needs. That will come forward in the next while. However, right now, all we are looking at is the development and construction of a portion that would lead to access for our use on airport lands. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 248-15(4): Kam Lake Access Road**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those issues have been outstanding for the last couple of years. I know the designs have been partially done. The department is doing some work on it, but what we really need to see is this road get built, and we have to sort those things out, and the sooner, the better. There has been some talk of, perhaps, putting in a winter road which wouldn't cost as much money and would initially get the

access into Kam Lake industrial park during the winter months. I am wondering if the Minister and his department have explored that angle on at least for a portion of the year to get a roadway built into Kam Lake industrial park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 248-15(4): Kam Lake Access Road**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have explored and looked at the concept of a winter road. I have not seen any firm pricing on it. It is an interesting concept. It is something that is probably a little more feasible, and viable, to do at this point. Having said that, there is also a lot of new dollars that are flowing to the communities, including the City of Yellowknife, that they can use for municipal roads. A lot of it is flowing as a result of the federal New Deal. We are hoping that some of these things can be targeted, or focused, on the development of a bypass road. We continue to make every effort to see how we can accommodate this request and have this road built. Thank you.

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

**Question 249-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. It is about the beverage container recovery program. I did have to step out for a minute to speak to some constituents; I hope that I am not repeating a question that has already been asked. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister why the program...Just give us a logistics of why the program is all or nothing. It is either in all the communities, or no communities. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 249-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for expediency and efficiency, we are putting the surcharge, on the bottles, on the distributors that bring their products into the Northwest Territories, so as soon as they hit the territory, there is going to be a charge on every one of those beverage containers that are covered. That is why it is a program of general application. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 249-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, if the program proceeds on schedule, the Minister is guaranteeing that, in every community, there will be a vehicle, or mechanism, whereby consumers can return their beverage containers to recover their deposit. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 249-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just sent a note up to my executive assistant to tell the ENR troops to get ready with a communication plan and a roll out plan, because for those communities that don't have access on an interim basis, we are going to be in the recycling business. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 249-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, that is an interesting scenario. So in my mind's eye now, I see a community like Tulita, and I see some little person coming up to a renewable resources officer in uniform with a drinking box and asking for their five cents back. I imagine you are going to have to put some time restraints on it. Is this going to take away from your resources that are now dedicated to doing other very important tasks associated with ENR? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 249-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is not going to be dissimilar from the work we now do in the communities with furs, anyway. We have had some preliminary discussions, for some time, as November 1<sup>st</sup> approaches, so we will be, of course, fleshing out the program and how we are going to do it on an interim basis as we continue to work to make sure we set this up as a business opportunity in all communities, as well as making sure that we can still do the other duties of the day that ENR staff are tasked with. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 249-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to avoid the laborious task of dealing with clients on a one-by-one basis, has the Minister consulted with the smaller communities to see if they would be interested in collectively submitting their beverage containers for a refund, and having those monies allocated to a community organization, or the local youth centre, or some other type of program? Has that option been pursued in any of the small communities? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 249-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to entertain any suggestion, or proposal, from the communities in regard to making the best use of this opportunity. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

**Question 250-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, I spoke of the impact the garbage control program will have on income support workers or clients. Can the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment inform this Assembly whether his department will be increasing the amount of money available for food under the Income Support program, upon the introduction of the NWT Beverage Container Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 250-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amount of funding provided to clients for the food basket is reviewed on an annual basis, at least. So at least every year we review the program. We will examine what the impact is of the cost of the program, and there may be some response, but we will have to wait and do food surveys to find out exactly what that response will be.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

**Supplementary To Question 250-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate how soon he will try to find out from...He mentioned that he is going to examine the impacts to the cost of the food basket, so when can that happen? Is it likely to happen before the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 250-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is unlikely it would happen before November 1<sup>st</sup>. There are things that impact the cost of foods that happen on a regular basis. A frost in California drives up the prices of oranges this week. The program doesn't change week to week. What we do is a survey annually to examine what the food costs are in a community, and then we change the program to accommodate that. So the same sort of process will happen here. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

**Supplementary To Question 250-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on the flip side of my previous question, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister be clawing back money that income support clients receive under the NWT garbage container recycling program? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 250-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have advised that if nobody returned anything, it would cost the average household an extra \$7.95 a month. So we are not talking about much more than the impact of a frost in California, on the cost of food, in most of our communities. But I doubt that there would be any clawback for monies, if people were recycling. That is an activity that we want to encourage among northerners.

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

**Question 251-15(4): Rehabilitation Services**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger, on the rehabilitation service in my riding. Mr. Speaker, three additional rehab teams will be rolled out in the near future. Will the Minister consider basing one of the teams in the community of Behchoko, as opposed to Yellowknife? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 251-15(4): Rehabilitation Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at present, the plan is to locate them along with the team that currently exists in Yellowknife. There hasn't been any discussion with the authorities about any other scenario. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 251-15(4): Rehabilitation Services**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell this Assembly what the rationale is for basing half of the teams, which are meant to be covering rehab services for the whole Northwest Territories, in Yellowknife? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 251-15(4): Rehabilitation Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are making an attempt to decentralize this service by putting one team in the South Slave, another in Inuvik, and then because of its central

location and critical mass of other practising professionals, in Yellowknife, that they provide service to the Sahtu, Tlicho and Deh Cho. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 251-15(4): Rehabilitation Services**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Since there is an unwillingness to commit to basing one of the rehab teams in my riding, is he looking at the possibility of establishing a therapeutic counsellor in the community to take care of the needs of the region? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 251-15(4): Rehabilitation Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we already fund community wellness workers, mental health workers, clinical supervisors, as well as social workers, nurses, CHRs, and such. So I am not sure exactly what the Member is meaning by a therapeutic counsellor. I would be happy to talk to the Member and get more detail. As well, I don't want to shut the door completely. I am always willing to look at suggestions and the issue of the relocation of rehab teams. I will make note of that. The next meeting we have with the board chairs, I will put the issue on the table, and to the member who chairs, Mr. Nitsiza, so he will be made aware of that, I am sure. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 251-15(4): Rehabilitation Services**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As a short-term measure, Mr. Speaker, I have indicated in my Member's statement that there is a period of six weeks' waiting. There is no need for that in my riding and other ridings, as well, in the North. Twenty-four hours is a long time waiting. Even six weeks is a long time waiting.

Mr. Speaker, in order to make a short-term measure to assist the community to plan ahead, will the Minister please have his staff work with the rehabilitation team and the communities in Monfwi, to establish a schedule of visits in advance? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 251-15(4): Rehabilitation Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we talk about the issue of wait times. One of the areas with the most pressing and longest wait times, and the most pressing need, is the area of rehab services. So, yes, Mr. Speaker, I will commit to making sure we take a look and work with the resources in Yellowknife, and Stanton, and the Member's constituency, to see that we can better schedule. Thank you.

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

**Question 252-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up with the Minister of ENR on this recycling program that is going to be implemented on November 1<sup>st</sup>. I have a letter here from the Co-op in Colville Lake, and a letter from Bern Will Brown from Colville Lake, and also a letter from a member from Norman Wells, and a phone call from the chief of the Sahtu Dene Council, the grand chief, Frank Andrew, in terms of the financial burdens that are going to be put on to the people in our smaller communities, and the fairness. The Minister has given this House an indication as to having some interim measures in the communities. Will there be cash in the trash when our people go up to one of their offices and they have to refund their products that they buy, that they have cash for sure in terms of implementing this program? Right now, it is uncertain and there are only seven days left. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 252-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the commitment was to provide the same capacity as other communities that have depots. So, yes, we will ensure, similar to the fur program that, as the Member said, will there be cash in the trash. I hope that they will take the cash out of the trash and bring it to us, and we will help them recycle it and get them their refund. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 252-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's cash in the trash support there. I want to ask the Minister whether any of the communities are not prepared to take on this type of program. The Minister's office of ENR is doing it. For example, in Colville Lake, would the Co-op store be the biggest spot that would take their needs? If that is the case, then, is the department looking at refunding or helping out in terms of a storage site, or container, or a site, or building that they could put their material in? Otherwise, the juvenile delinquents in the community would do more harm than good to this program. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 252-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to work with any business, or group, in the community. We have assistance with equipment to get started. We don't have money for capital, but this is seen as a business

opportunity, especially if there is an existing business that wants a sideline that will generate some income. But there is assistance in terms of the start-up cash registers, and all the other equipment you need to process the beverage containers. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 252-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister reconsider implementing this program in the communities where they may not be up to speed for handling of these types of products? Sometimes, they take a little longer than seven days, or a month, to get this program securely grounded in the communities to operate this. Would the Minister look at something in terms of reconsidering how this program gets implemented in communities that don't have a recycling facility? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 252-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated, we will commit to interim measures, but we will definitely continue to work with communities to try to arrange a longer term and more private enterprise-focused or group-focused, non-government-focused initiative. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 252-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to go on the record that I support this recycling program in the Northwest Territories. I think it is good. I think it is about time that the government is taking a stance on this. I am having some difficulty understanding the implementation. I want to ask the Minister about the implementation of the program. It is fairly high, in terms of the deposits and the handling fees. I understand people in other territories pay less for this type of project, because of the different rates. I wonder if the Minister has given some thought of being on an equal level for handling our deposits and handling fees for this product. Would he consider looking at the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 252-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I provided the Members with a chart that laid out all the costs in other jurisdictions, as well, just to give them a sense...the Yukon, Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. As you go through the list, there are a few that we are higher, and some that we are not. There is a mix on the different sizes and types of containers. We have tried to clearly recognize, as we do when we have discussions with Ottawa, that we

have costs in terms of transportation and distance and other challenges when we implement these kinds of programs. We tried to be as reasonable as possible but still make it a doable program. Thank you.

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

**Question 253-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources with regard to the implementation of the Beverage Container Program. I, too, have to speak against it. To me, it is still not the right time to implement this program. I still don't think it is well thought out. As well, it is because it is self-sufficient in nature and, basically, that means that our constituents are being taxed. The best estimates we have here are that we have an average family of four, that is like \$10 a week, and the cost of living increase of \$520 a year, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Oh!

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** It is just not acceptable, especially in the smaller communities. I still think that, yes, in Yellowknife, it is a workable solution. It can work in Hay River as well, but in the smaller communities, at this point, Mr. Speaker, it is just not acceptable. Has the Minister looked at that? Thank you very much.

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

**Return To Question 253-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been working on this program since the legislation was passed, back in the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly. It is our opinion and there are plans to roll this out across the entire Northwest Territories in all the communities, because the issue of recycling and reusing, the challenge of litter and protecting the environment, is an issue across the North. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 253-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am certainly in favour of any legislation that is green, but I am telling the Minister that, in this case, it just doesn't appear to work. We can do it, but I am just saying not today, Mr. Speaker. I know that we have seven days left to do something about it. The whole focus is on the three Rs, but I would like to offer the Minister three Ds; that is, defer, delay and detain implementation of this legislation. Can the Minister do that, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 253-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the D that this Cabinet prides itself on is the D for delivery.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Yeah!

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** That is the approach we intend to take. I appreciate the concerns of the Members from across the House. We are making, I believe, every reasonable effort, and then some, to make sure that this program is going to roll out successfully. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 253-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is one other D the Minister failed to recognize, and that is deny the fact that people are going to pay for a service that they are not really ready for. That is what I was trying to convey to the Minister, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister defer this legislation, or else can this government at least pay for the first six months of the cost of this legislation, because the people are just not ready for it? Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 253-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe people from across the Northwest Territories are ready to recycle and to take an extra step to protect the environment. We are going to work to ensure that every community has the capacity to help people do what they think is a good thing which is recycle, reuse and be environmentally conscious, and to help protect the environment, cut our litter, help reduce the 25 million beverage containers that now currently go into our landfill, or in our ditches, and in the bush, and make the North what it is supposed to be: a pristine, wonderful place with an unparalleled environment and beauty. That is our intent, to work with the people to deliver. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 253-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, share the vision of the Minister in maintaining the great beauty of the North. It is just that, Mr. Speaker, once again, we are taxing our residents to implement this program. We are already paying taxes to our government to take care of our land and our future. Now we are asking them to pay more taxes. It is truly taxation legislation. I am fundamentally opposed to that. Once again, is there room for the Minister to defer and delay this legislation until we come up with a better plan we can offer the people of the NWT? Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 253-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are going to make, as I have indicated, all the necessary steps to ensure that this plan can roll out across the Territories. It is a fundamental issue. It has been a clear direction of this Legislature, from the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly carried forward by this Assembly, and committed to, and it is part of what we see as a fundamental underpinning in terms of protecting the environment. So we are going to work through whatever bugs may be there, but this is a very important program. It is one we intend to follow up on. Thank you.

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

**Question 254-15(4): Corporate Tax Shortfall**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions, at this point, are for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland. They reflect the very sobering and disappointing news that we got earlier today in his statement, about a \$30 million shortfall in corporate income tax collection. Our forecasting just did not meet with the reality. This is pretty sudden stuff, Mr. Speaker. We understand that Revenue Canada just advised our folks about this on Friday. It is a substantial piece of news for us to absorb. I wanted to ask the Minister a few more details just to get some of the context on this.

Mr. Speaker, just what is the impact, then, on this current year's spending and this current year's programming, of this \$30 million shortfall in corporate tax revenues? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 254-15(4): Corporate Tax Shortfall**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Minister's statement, right now, we are working with the Canada Revenue Agency to see where the numbers come from, and the impact this fiscal year we are in as they are based on the 2004 taxation year. What happens is, at the beginning of the year, we work with the federal government. They give us estimates on what we should expect, based on previous year's tax receipts that were received. It is throughout the year, as taxation filing happens and the timelines are met by corporations, we get the updates. That is what has happened in this case. What we have to do now is look at our own fiscal picture for this year and look at our policies. We have our fiscal responsibility policy that is in place, and review what our numbers would look like towards the end of this fiscal year. If, in fact, our numbers are healthy enough to survive this, we probably can hold this and hunker down where we are at, without adding to further expenditures, and make it through this fiscal year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 254-15(4): Corporate Tax Shortfall**

**MR. BRADEN:** So, Mr. Speaker, last week, or at the beginning of this session, the Minister advised us that we had trimmed our operating surplus, so far, down to \$26 million this year. Does this \$30 million mean we are now in a deficit? I would just like to get some handle on what this means with everything we know for this government at the end of this fiscal year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 254-15(4): Corporate Tax Shortfall**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, when you look at the amount that we've been notified on the reductions, or the lesser amount that we expected, our fiscal picture has now turned into a negative. We have approximately \$3 million identified, at this point, on the negative side of our budget, so a deficit. With that in place, we would have to address this through our fiscal responsibility policy which says, to meet our capital plan, we have to have a surplus to fund 50 percent of that. We are close to that, but we would have to make some changes in this fiscal year to make sure that we slow down the rate of expenditures. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 254-15(4): Corporate Tax Shortfall**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, this is a really frustrating example of why it is one of the things that is so difficult in our operating environment here, where we started out the year with almost a \$50 million forecast for a surplus, and now we are behind the eight ball by about \$3 million. Our capital program, at least the financing for it, is in jeopardy. Mr. Speaker, we are the hottest economy in Canada. We have more GDP. We have more jobs. We have more annual income than just about any other region in Canada. How does it happen that, with all this wealth passing out there, our own government is actually looking at fewer dollars than forecast? How can this happen?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 254-15(4): Corporate Tax Shortfall**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is, indeed, frustrating, as the Finance Minister, to look at what we projected, based on the numbers in the estimates that were put in place, and then, throughout the year, receive a number of calls to inform us that, in fact, we have less revenue coming in. One, because of a corporate...both cases resulting from corporate tax. One, refiling that is happening throughout corporations that filed in the Northwest Territories. Two, expectations are less than what we had accounted for or expected. Ultimately, it comes down to our fiscal relationship with Ottawa, the fact that our formula financing, right now, is in limbo with the environment we are under, and the fact that we need to get revenue sharing settled so that we can benefit from the revenues that flow out of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.



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

**Question 255-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to forward my questions to the honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. It gets back to the beverage recycle container program that is going to be implemented on November 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to ask the Minister why this government isn't ready to roll this program out. It has some depots set up, but it doesn't have a plan in all the communities across the Northwest Territories to effectively deliver this program. I think it is incumbent upon the government to answer the question, why isn't the program ready? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 255-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this has been a protected process that has taken time with the legislation and the regulations in getting geared up. The question is when. There was tremendous criticism that we were dragging our feet and weren't doing anything. We had legislation and we were just sitting around not doing anything. As Minister, when I took over this portfolio, I indicated that I would like to move on this. Initially, I wanted October 1<sup>st</sup>. We moved it to November 1<sup>st</sup>. They told me that it wasn't going to be perfect. It was clear that we would have to really do some work. At this point, I think it is best that we move on this, and we will make sure that it does get set up. It has been almost three years since that legislation was passed. It is overdue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 255-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's response to that question, but I think what we really need to have answered, Mr. Speaker, is the question of what is it going to cost this government to deliver that program in all the communities across the Northwest Territories? It is fine to have a program and a depot set up in the major centres like Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik, but what is going to be the end cost to deliver this program? I am talking staffing, transportation costs, stockpiling the goods in the communities. Where is the game plan, and where is the business case that is going to say that this program is going to be cost neutral? Mr. Speaker, I can't see that happening. I don't know how we are going to end up paying for this program in all the communities across the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 255-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to share even more detail in terms of the analysis of the costs. It is supposed to be self-financing. There is some start-up money to get going, but after that, the refund is going to sustain the program. That has been the plan from the start. Where we have to make interim arrangements, we are going to use existing resources and staff, so there is going to be no extra cost for that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for question period has expired; however I will allow the Member to continue his supplementary questioning. Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 255-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his response, but I don't understand. The trouble I am having with this is, how can a depot in Hay River, or Inuvik, or Yellowknife, that has the critical mass of recyclables coming into it, that is one thing; but when you talk about some of the smaller communities that just don't have the goods coming into it, how does that make sense? If we have to run out and hire a person in every community across the Northwest Territories to handle this, there are going to be cost implications. I don't think the government really knows what it is going to cost to deliver this program. I agree, it is a good program, but what is going to be the cost, at the end of the day, to the residents of the Northwest Territories to deliver this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 255-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the cost will be millions fewer beverage containers; it will be landfills that aren't getting filled up rapidly; it will be a cleaner environment; it will be a part-time business opportunity in small communities for individuals who want to take this on -- organizations, schools, sports teams -- that want to do this on a part-time basis. We are not talking about hiring a full-time staff in every community to go into the depot business. This is seen as a business opportunity, preferably if there is already an existing business or if, in some of the communities, the schools are going to take it on as a fundraising effort.

Mr. Speaker, we see this as a win right across the board with the cash, and all the other important costs aren't quantified with dollar figures in terms of our landfills and our environment and the fact that it is going to be user-friendly and help with emissions and make us a contributor to help the Kyoto Accord. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 255-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with what the Minister has said about getting the stuff out of our landfills, and having a good impact on the environment, and I support the program. Don't get me wrong. But what I think that government has to do, is do all of its homework and tell the residents of the Northwest Territories what it is going to cost. We can't do something halfway, Mr. Speaker. You have to do the whole gamut, and if you are going to have the program in all the communities, you have to come up with a game plan, and you have to know what it is going to cost. The government doesn't know what it is going to cost, Mr. Speaker. What is it going to cost, Mr. Minister?

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

**Further Return To Question 255-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are down to one of these situations where we have offered information, we have shown all the costs, that it is going to be self-sustaining; there is some start-up money that was voted by this Assembly to get moving on this; it is going to be self-sustaining.

The Member disagrees. We are saying the plan has been thought through, and we have been working diligently for many, many months now, and we intend to roll it out. At this point, I would suggest that the proof will be in the pudding. We have hidden nothing from the people, the public, this Legislature. The document is there for everybody to see, and so is all the work that we have gone through to come to where we are today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5 on the Orders Paper. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize my sister Deborah McPherson, in the gallery, and, once again, Betty Hardisty, as well. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you, Members. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 6.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 6, oral questions. Before we do that, Members, I would like to draw the Members' attention to the presence in the visitors' gallery of Mrs. Shannon Gullberg, the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, and Ms. Elaine Keenan-Bengts, the Information and Privacy Commissioner for the Northwest Territories, who have joined us here today and will be witnessing the tabling of their respective annual reports. Please join me in welcoming them to the Assembly. Welcome.

---Applause

Before we go on with the Orders of the Day, the Chair is going to call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

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

**REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question 256-16(4): Response To A Letter Of Inquiry**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I rose last week on an issue about not getting a response on a letter I had written to the Minister that's a month old. It's difficult with the frustration of not getting an answer, and that bothers me, but it also bothers the constituent when I keep going back to them. I'm still waiting for the Minister to respond. So, Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister promised I would get my answer before this session ended. So my question again to the Minister is, are we going to get it in this session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 256-16(4): Response To A Letter Of Inquiry**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 256-16(4): Response To A Letter Of Inquiry**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate hearing that from the Minister. Just a little further clarity, and this maybe could be the end of the questions, which is, the fact is if I don't have a chance to look at this response, I want to ensure that I have a timely way to look at this response, because we're talking about northern purchasing and how it's being purchased through the Health and Social Services department. So I would like to know, from the Minister, will I get my response in a timely way so if there are issues to bring forward in this House, I will have time to debate that issue, or will I get it at the last hour on the last day of session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 256-16(4): Response To A Letter Of Inquiry**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we'll have the response before the House on Thursday.

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

**Supplementary To Question 256-16(4): Response To A Letter Of Inquiry**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will I have it before oral question period, before the House finishes on Thursday? It's difficult to raise an issue on the floor of this House once the Assembly adjourns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 256-16(4): Response To A Letter Of Inquiry**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me just repeat the commitment. I'll have the letter for the Member before the House on Thursday, before the House starts on Thursday.

---Applause

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

**Question 257-15(4): Day Care Services For Aurora College Students**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, I'm not really prepared to accept that three future students might be abandoning their studies from Aurora College because this government will not provide the resources to keep a day care open,...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Shame, shame.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** ...a need that is nothing less than essential. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have raised this issue, a really critical issue, that we need to tackle. Mr. Speaker, what is the Minister prepared to do to ensure that the investment that these Aurora College students and our government have made in their education does not go to waste, and that the day care they rely on has adequate resources to continue to operate, Mr. Speaker? Mahsi.

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

**Return To Question 257-15(4): Day Care Services For Aurora College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The college recognizes the importance of childcare for students, and has, over the years, supported day cares. In the mid '90s, they offered a day care in the Green House, and they have recently supported this day care

that's in operation right now in space in Fort Smith. The college has informed me that they are working with the students to find alternate placements for the children of the students. They have found placements for a good number already, but they will continue to work with that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 257-15(4): Day Care Services For Aurora College Students**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as my fellow colleagues, as MLAs for the North, we do represent our ridings, and we have some students in Fort Smith Aurora College that are intending to become teachers. Mr. Speaker, as I spoke with my leadership yesterday at the swearing in of the grand chief of the Tlicho Government, we're running out of options on how we can tackle this issue in Fort Smith. The October 28<sup>th</sup> closing date is just around the corner, Mr. Speaker. So my question to the Minister would be that the Tlicho Government is prepared to work with the GNWT in the interests of Aurora College students. Would the Minister agree to meet with Tlicho leadership, Mr. Speaker, this week, to discuss the possibility of immediate arrangements to prevent the closure of the day care facility in Smith? I stress the urgency of this situation, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 257-15(4): Day Care Services For Aurora College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm ready to meet with the leadership of an aboriginal government at any time, if we can find a mutually agreeable time to do that. I am confident, though, that the college will work with the students in Fort Smith to find arrangements for the children who might be affected by a closure of the facility. But having said that, I would meet with the leadership, yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 257-15(4): Day Care Services For Aurora College Students**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that the Minister is receptive to sitting down with the leadership to deal with this crisis that's happening in Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, the Minister outlined that Aurora College is working with the local community, and also the students through Aurora College, to specify the homecare day care, essentially, I guess, needed in that community. What I'm trying to get at, Mr. Speaker, is there are Tlicho students at Aurora College, there are 12 of them that are parents, and also three of them that have three children in the day care program. He outlined the students that were identified. Are those students also part of the Tlicho students that are in the program? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 257-15(4): Day Care Services For Aurora College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point, I can't advise the Members which students may

have been helped by Aurora College to find alternate placements. I am advised that a good number of the students have already found alternate placements, and the college is continuing to work with others to find places for children who need day care. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 257-15(4): Day Care Services For Aurora College Students**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my last supplementary question is, when is the Minister willing to meet with the leadership, because the closing date is on Friday? We're on Tuesday already, and I think this can be used by other communities as well, once we establish a strategy with the department. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 257-15(4): Day Care Services For Aurora College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be prepared to meet with the Member very quickly to talk about what they're proposing. I would have to caution, though, that we don't have extra money to put into this program. But we are certainly interested in hearing what the Tlicho might propose. So anytime that the Member would care to propose, we will work around that and try and rearrange my schedule to accommodate them.

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

**Question 258-15(4): Restrictions On Overproof Alcohol**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, today I would like to ask questions of the Honourable Floyd Roland, Minister responsible for the FMBS. Mr. Speaker, you're aware that the Minister has ordered instructions directed to the NWT liquor store outlets regarding restrictions on overproof. I wanted to ask the Minister for an update as to the status of that directive. I know there were some questions posed by some of the operators in terms of the enforcement. Is the Minister going to inform the House, and people in the North, about the effectiveness, or the status, of how this program is going? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 258-15(4): Restrictions On Overproof Alcohol**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we did implement the changes we discussed on the overproof alcohol products and haven't heard any information as to how enforcement is going. My understanding is that it has been implemented and things are proceeding. There were a number of complaints raised initially; however, not too many of them, and people have adjusted. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 258-15(4): Restrictions On Overproof Alcohol**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the smaller communities in the Sahtu, from the time that I've gotten off the aircraft in my community, there are cases of whisky coming off the plane, and it causes a lot of havoc in the communities over the weekend, and this is where we get into other issues of justice and health and a whole bunch of other things. Will the Minister look at doing a formal review of the implementation of restricting the overproof, and does it make a difference in his instruction to the different outlets? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 258-15(4): Restrictions On Overproof Alcohol**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of volume of liquor going into communities can be dealt with by communities holding a plebiscite as to restrictions of alcohol products going into that community. Once we receive that, we can go forward with those changes that communities have been requesting. The issue of overproof sales and so on, I can get an update from the department as to how things have changed, if they have changed around that, or if there have been more products purchased than other products and not the overproof. So I'm not sure where the Member is going here and what specific information... I'd be happy to sit down with the Member to get the details and try to see where we can go with this. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 258-15(4): Restrictions On Overproof Alcohol**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I understand there is a Liquor Act review underway, so I won't go into that process. My point to the Minister of FMBS is regarding the restrictions on the overproof. Does he have enough information to come back to us, or to myself, to say it's going well or it's not going well, or is it just hearsay because I'm hearing different things in the region? So I just want to ask for some concrete evidence of how the overproof is going regarding the recent restrictions on that in the liquor stores. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 258-15(4): Restrictions On Overproof Alcohol**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get the information as to how sales have changed since we put our restriction on overproof sales. Thank you.

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

**Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and they have to do with the issue of day care, as well. Mr. Speaker, we have invested

millions of dollars in the college in Fort Smith; we've invested millions of dollars in capital in the student residences there, and wouldn't it be a shame now if childcare became the obstacle to northern students accessing the college programs for their educational needs? Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of post-secondary education institutions out there, and I don't think we can be turning any students away. I don't think we can be sending them down to Alberta or British Columbia or other places to get their education, after we've invested this kind of money. We want to keep them here in the North. So surely, given already how much we're in for in our college program, we could do something creative in terms of the needs. A lot of students are young people. A lot of them have young families. That is a trend and that is a given in this day and age. They are not all single people.

Mr. Speaker, what I'd like to know is, is there any space in the college where our government could possibly consider giving the students that added benefit of day care service on site, on campus? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The day care is currently operating in college-owned space on campus.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well that's interesting. So perhaps the Minister could tell us exactly what is the impediment to the continuation of the operation of the day care centre? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, the current operator is unable to continue the operation with the level of subsidies that are provided. That's the complaint, is that they say they need bigger operating grants in order to continue.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister have a dollar amount in terms of what it would take, whether it be a cash injection or some form of support? How much are we talking about to keep this day care operational? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, and I want to be careful -- I'm not sure how much I should talk publicly about one operator -- but as I understand it, they would need a significant contribution one time, but also it would have to be an ongoing increase in the rates that are provided, and we're talking about in the tens of thousands of dollars that the operators are currently needing to see. The problem we'd have is that we would have to then make that sort of funding available to other operators equitably across the Territories. So at this point, we haven't had the money. We've been looking at this program when we were in the business planning process. We had figured that we were going to see the federal government follow through on their promise to provide us with funding that we would be able to put into the program so we could increase the subsidies to the operators, increase the subsidies to parents, and improve on access to training. We had intended to invest in all those areas and had the plans in place, but we have not seen the money that we had counted on. That's what we were looking forward to.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, well, obviously, the clock is running out on this particular operation. Would the Minister commit to speaking with the operator, or having people in his department attend at the facility in Fort Smith, so that he can have related to him a firsthand version of the issues and the story, and, I guess, an assessment of the service that we're losing? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have met with the operator. I have talked to the operator on the phone very recently. I am aware of the situation and circumstances there, and we are in a situation where we have a program, we offer support to people who want to start a day care, and we say here is the level of support that will be offered if you run this program. If people are running the program, that's what they have to expect that they're going to get. I would dearly love to have more money to put into that program, and we'll be continuing to fight for more money for the programming, but, at this point, we have a program where the conditions were set out, and that's the level of support that we're prepared to offer. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess we could analyze why this particular operator and this facility has fallen into difficulty, but, Mr.

Speaker, I notice, as I read the annual report of the BDIC, that there's BDF funding that goes to all kinds of businesses in the North, what I would say are fairly mature, competent businesses, that haven't filed their corporate income tax returns for the last three years, and BDF gives them \$25,000 to get their house in order. What about the BDF for a little bit of support? Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 259-15(4): Day Care Services For College Students**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume that if a day care is a business, that it could apply to the BDF. I'm sorry; that's outside my portfolio, so I can't answer the question.

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

**Question 260-15(4): Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are also with the day care closing. Mr. Speaker, my information is that there is a plan for a new day care centre that could replace this, but I don't believe that this is in the works. My understanding is that this operator has to close because she has an outstanding bill with Revenue Canada for source deductions, and if she could only make that payment, she could possibly have it open to Christmas and alleviate this urgency. I would like to know from the Minister why he would not consider helping this centre out in the interim, until there is a new facility open because, from talking to people from Smith that happen to be here in town, my understanding is that the alternative day care facilities are quite non-existent. So I'm just not comfortable that the Minister has any other plans for these kids who will have no day care to go to as of next Monday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 260-15(4): Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be checking regularly with the college to see how they are coming in helping students find alternate placements for the students who need day care. So I will commit to stay on top of that. Mr. Speaker, if we're going to provide a bailout to one day care, then others can reasonably expect that we're going to do that for them, as well. We have a program. The parameters of the program were clearly set out; they were stipulated in the contract with the operator; and that's the level of funding that we are prepared to offer at this point.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 260-15(4): Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the argument that because he has helped nobody else and watched them fail, that he has to watch the sixth one fail,

just doesn't wash with me. We're dealing with one day care that is in dire need, that needs some extra funding. Premier Handley said, in this House, that why we are here is to do politically strong things, whereas this Minister has to stick to whatever is planned and because I've watched every other day care fail, I have to watch this one. So why can't the Minister be politically strong and do something about this before it's too late, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 260-15(4): Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't stood by and watched other day cares fail. In fact, in the last four years, there's been an increase in day care programs in the Northwest Territories of 23. There's been an increase of over 150 spaces in day care programs in the Northwest Territories in that same time.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Good government.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** So there have been some that have gone under; there have been new ones that have come along to take their places. Yes, it's a tough business. It's a very tough business to be in, and I understand that, and I am going to continue fighting to get the money that should be in that program.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 260-15(4): Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure I could release this. The executive director of YWCA, Lyda Fuller, tells me that the government has intervened for as much as \$75,000 to save a day care. So why is this Minister refusing to take action and do an extraordinary thing? All they have to do is look at the issue and review it, and come to an answer other than saying that he can't do anything because he's a robot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 260-15(4): Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that a bailout is the right way to go for an operation. We need to make sure that the operations can survive within the funding that we have available, and if we can find more funding, then they can enhance the programs. But particularly in these times of tight money, we have to be careful with our expenditures and live within our budgets. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 260-15(4): Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to table the two letters where, basically, the Minister tells the day care centre we don't have any money, you've got everything, and so, basically, go away. That's dated October 18<sup>th</sup>, and the very next day, Aurora College tells them you have

to get out of here by Friday. Is that the Minister's way of working with a day care centre that's in a financially dire situation? How can he assure this House that he's taking care of the children? What is the latest? Because my information is that these kids have nowhere to go and the Minister doesn't give a darn. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 260-15(4): Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the tabling of those letters. The one, particularly, from the college, I think, outlines that they are interested in working to see day care in the North and in Fort Smith. If you take a look at what the letters say, it's basically, well, it's unfortunate that you've had to follow this path, but the program offers a certain level of support. This government doesn't bail everybody out, in spite of what the opinions might be, and maybe we should. It would be nice to be able to do that sort of thing, but right now, we're in a situation where we have a program, the money is set out in that program, and we have to expect that operators will live within it. Do we help them? Yes. We'll have staff go out to the centre. The staff have been available to help in Fort Smith, just as they are in other communities, to provide advice and support. But I think it's not fair to pretend that that isn't happening, because it does happen all across the North, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 261-15(4): Addictions Treatment Programs**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on my questions on the alcohol issue in my region. At this time, I want to ask the question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, on the programs. Has his department written to the federal government, or whatever programs that Health Canada has, in terms of alcohol and drug strategy programs in regard to getting some funding for treatment and rehabilitation programs or centres in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 261-15(4): Addictions Treatment Programs**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I believe we've accessed all the funds possible with the federal government. As well, we work with the aboriginal governments on a number of these projects, like the Diabetes Strategy, as well, which has a direct tie into alcohol. There are many programs for children that we're involved in as a government. So, yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 261-15(4): Addictions Treatment Programs**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister, in his recollection, know about the alcohol and drug treatment rehabilitation contribution

program that the government has offered under Health Canada, under the office of demand reduction programs? Is the Minister aware if his department has submitted a proposal to that office? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 261-15(4): Addictions Treatment Programs**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that title that the Member repeated, or rattled off, doesn't ring any bells. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 261-15(4): Addictions Treatment Programs**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Minister. I have information here that this office of demand reduction and the drug strategy of controlled substance programming in Ottawa has allocated, in 2004-2005, \$266,798 to the Northwest Territories for an alcohol and drug treatment rehab contribution program. That's the information I have here. So I wanted to ask the Minister if his government has asked for these dollars to help us in the alcohol and drug programs or our facilities in the North? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Chair is not sure if that document is present in the House, or if the Minister is aware of the document; however, I will allow the Minister to answer. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 261-15(4): Addictions Treatment Programs**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Member would care to share that information with me, I would follow up immediately with the departmental officials and get back to him on the status of that particular program. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 261-15(4): Addictions Treatment Programs**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Again, I apologize to the Minister in terms of the information. I would like to ask the Minister, upon reviewing this document and upon reviewing what the information states, can he then look at the Department of Health and Social Services to put in a request for this type of funding, if the department hasn't done so already, in regard to helping with the drug and alcohol treatment programs or facilities in the North? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 261-15(4): Addictions Treatment Programs**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we'll look at the program and the conditions, and talk to the officials and see what strings are attached, because our history with the

department and our experience has shown us it's very difficult. For example, with the territorial health access fund, it's been almost a year-and-a-half and an agreement at the highest levels, and yet money has yet to flow. But, yes, I'll commit to the Member to take a close look at that program. Thank you.

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

**Question 262-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, about the beverage container recovery program. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has confirmed, and assured, and the only word I haven't heard there is "guaranteed," that, as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, all communities will have a depot or some location whereby consumers can get a refund for the beverage containers. Mr. Speaker, this is a very quick and, I think, a very knee-jerk reaction to a problem here. Mr. Speaker, I don't find this alternative acceptable here. We have an oversight responsibility, as Members on this side, to look at things. The allocation of scarce and valuable and expensive staff resources in perhaps 25 communities to take over this responsibility...I don't think is an acceptable way of dealing with this at all. Mr. Speaker, why hasn't the Minister put together a couple of options and circulated them to us to see just what kind of program we might be able to support in this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 262-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an important program. We've suggested a course of action, or I've suggested a course of action, for that 20 percent or so of the population that won't have access to a depot; and I'd be more than happy if the Member has specific suggestions, to entertain those and look at those. At this point, I'm trying to provide assurance that no community, and no individual in the North, will be denied an opportunity to get back the refund that they're entitled to and that they paid for. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 262-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, the option that I would put forward is the best one, the one that the department originally pursued, and that was to set up a depot in all communities. Now there's a problem in a number of them. We just haven't got the business formula right, whatever the reason is. Mr. Speaker, the best option, in those communities that don't yet have a depot along the original plan that we all agreed with is that it should be deferred until such time as one is set up. Why can't we do that? That's the common-sense approach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 262-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I disagree. It would be virtually impossible, from where I stand, when the fees on the bottles are already paid at source with the distributors into the retailers to reach into a community, or individual retail stores, to somehow not do that when it's already been paid. I have suggested an alternative, and, at this point, I would suggest we'll have to agree to disagree, because we intend to proceed. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 262-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, we're getting all sorts of different technical and administrative reasons here. But at the bottom line, it's the fairness to consumers and a realistic use of the resources that we have at our disposal. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said that this arrangement whereby ENR staff would be looking after things is going to be temporary. Just how long does the Minister assume this temporary, but very costly, arrangement is going to be in place? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 262-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would hope it would be a very short term. I would be more than happy to provide any kind of regular updates that the committee would ask for, and report back to this House when we next gather after Christmas. But we're going to be working on two things. We're going to be working to make sure that every northerner has the capacity to return their bottles and get refunds, or their beverage containers, and that, at the same time, we're going to be working more actively in the communities to arrange with groups, businesses, schools, whoever it is we have to, to encourage them to take advantage of this business opportunity. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 262-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, quick, let's do the math here. Say an employee spends four hours a week and there are 25 communities needing this kind of attention. Say that the cost of the employee's salary and overhead is \$40 an hour. We're looking at \$4,000 a week. That's just real off-the-top rough math, Mr. Speaker. Those are valuable resources for our government. Would the Minister, at his earliest convenience, make public an estimate of what the cost is going to be to maintain this interim arrangement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Further Return To Question 262-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 263-15(4): Relief Funding For Not-For-Profit Organizations**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to have a look at the BDF listing here and if I could, I'll direct my questions to the Minister of ITI. Aurora World Corporation assists and prepares a recovery plan, \$25,000; and another recovery plan for \$5,000 assists with the cost of bringing bookkeeping up to date and determining the viability of the business, \$10,000; financial relief for wind-down costs; that's for somebody going out of business, \$7,200; strategic plan, recovery plan, stabilize the organization recovery plan, \$25,000. Listen to this one: to provide urgent payables relief and accounting to identify problem areas, \$25,000. Urgent payables. I'd say that's what the Fort Smith day care has. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of ITI. Can the day care centre in Fort Smith, as a private business, apply to ITI for relief money? There are some amounts here for up to \$75,000, but at least \$25,000 or \$30,000. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 263-15(4): Relief Funding For Not-For-Profit Organizations**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct that we do provide monies to distressed businesses to help them get their affairs in order, in putting together recovery plans, to arrange for wind up when it's necessary, and I'll certainly check with the department. I certainly won't stand here and say that it's never happened, but I don't believe that we provide funds to not-for-profits in those cases. I think this is for businesses who need help and support and are, in fact, attempting to be a going concern. I will confirm that with my office, and I'll certainly provide that information to the Members. Thank you.

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

**Question 264-15(4): Alternatives For Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier in answering questions for the Member for Monfwi, Mr. Dent said that he's willing to meet with the leadership, but he's not prepared to put any money up. This is kind of like putting limitations and determining the outcome and sticking to the pattern of inaction, Mr. Speaker. So far I have no information from the Minister that says that these parents who have kids in this day care in Smith have replacements. So if he doesn't have that assurance by Thursday when we are getting out of this House, will the Minister consider providing extraordinary funding to this centre so that they can operate until Christmas? I'm not

asking for the sky. I'm just asking for some kind of sensible interim measure, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 264-15(4): Alternatives For Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the Member that a number of other students have been helped by the college to find alternate placements for their children in day cares. The college is continuing that work and we will wait and see how they're doing. I believe that they will be successful before the end of this week.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 264-15(4): Alternatives For Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Well, that's great. I think it's quite obvious that the Minister sees his world differently than mine and, I suggest, the parents and children who are in dire need, so I can't go by his belief or his optimistic picture or whatever. I need more assurance than that, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask again, if by Thursday there are students who are going to Aurora College who need childcare and they don't have them because of the closure of this day care, would the Minister provide funding to keep it open until they find alternative care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 264-15(4): Alternatives For Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department will work with the college throughout the next couple of days to ensure that we're able to find or try and find appropriate supports for students who are attending the college right now.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 264-15(4): Alternatives For Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid I cannot accept that because the letters that I see coming out of the Minister's office, in black and white, are saying that the department is not prepared to do anything and Aurora College wants them out of the centre. I have no assurance from the Minister or anybody that these single mothers and parents who are going to Aurora College will have childcare. I'm understanding that there's not much private care in Smith. So would the Minister consider keeping this open until they find alternative care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 264-15(4): Alternatives For Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member keeps saying that the college wants them out of the space. That's not true. The college would dearly love

to have the operation continue in that space because they appreciate the importance of having childcare for their students. But they are prepared also to work with their students to make sure that they find alternate space, and we will work with the college to try and assist in that. But that's the sort of support we're willing to provide right now.

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

**Supplementary To Question 264-15(4): Alternatives For Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I could only go by what I am seeing, and thus far there is a letter from the Minister, an e-mail from Aurora College, an e-mail from Mr. Miltenberger, an e-mail from the Premier, everything is going to the centre saying you're closing on October 28<sup>th</sup> and we're not doing anything. So I don't understand. I mean, sorry, don't blame me if I don't trust the Minister's words. Mr. Speaker, I ask again, if by Thursday there is no alternative day care arrangements for these students at Aurora College and they cannot continue with their program, if they don't have any other alternative arrangements, will the Minister consider keeping this open until Christmas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 264-15(4): Alternatives For Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have already said, I know the Member doesn't appreciate my answers, but the answers are what they are. You can accept them or not. The bottom line is that we are providing the level of support already to the day care that we will provide. We are working with the students at the college to try and find them alternate placements. But the level of support in the program that is being provided financially is all that we have to offer. The staff in Fort Smith are prepared to work in a supportive role and to assist the staff at the day care. That is typically what we offer across the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Question 265-15(4): UCEP Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment some questions with regard to the discussions I had a few years ago about the university and college education programs for Metis people. This funding is by the federal government and administered by the territorial government, however, in the definitions of aboriginal, somewhere the bureaucrats have missed the term Metis and have only Inuit and First Nations under that criteria. I want to ask the Minister if there is any good news from the federal government to include Metis in that specific program. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 265-15(4): UCEP Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I don't have any good news to report on that basis. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has not changed the criteria for that program. In fact, I have discovered at my meetings in Ottawa last week that the aboriginal funding for early learning and childcare is only available to First Nations people and is not available to Metis or Inuit people as well. So the federal government is continuing with its policy of treating aboriginal people differently.

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

**Supplementary To Question 265-15(4): UCEP Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm starting to realize a few things about the federal government's programs in terms of how it treats the people in the Northwest Territories. I'd like to ask the Minister what he or his department or even the other Cabinet Ministers are doing to change the federal government's mind. I think it's the bureaucrats that have a hard time with the definition, because it's a constitutionally protected term, "aboriginal." They're violating and, I hate to say this, we are also somewhat guilty of violating this program and the aboriginal term. What is the Minister doing or proposing to do to help the people in the North, especially the Metis people, under this program? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 265-15(4): UCEP Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. as the Member is aware, we have continued to press this issue with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and our local MP. In terms of the UCEP program we have not been successful at all. I can assure the Member that I made a very pointed demand of Minister Dryden that he take this issue on as an issue of fairness and one that he needs to address in the early learning and childcare program as well.

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

**Supplementary To Question 265-15(4): UCEP Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the Metis people in the Northwest Territories, they've been used as the forgotten people and rightly so in this Assembly here and by the federal government and also by the territorial government. I appreciate the Minister going to bat for the Metis people, but what can you tell the Metis people who want an education with all the developments happening in the Northwest Territories? Yes, we could put you into a UCEP program and we've encouraged the federal government to change it. Again, what assurance can the Minister give to the Metis people in terms of the UCEP program? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 265-15(4): UCEP Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to press the issue with the federal government in terms of who the program should apply to. I guess I need to make it clear that we don't put any money into that program. It's not a Government of the Northwest Territories program. We make it available through our offices in order just to ease access to it for northern residents. We have considered perhaps giving the program back and making the federal government deliver the program, but we decided if we did that we'd be back in the situation where all of the money wasn't being spent. So there would be people in the North who wouldn't access it because it was more difficult. So we have decided to continue offering the program, but I think it's got to be clear that this isn't our program and we only provide it to make it more easily accessible in the North.

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

**Supplementary To Question 265-15(4): UCEP Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I'm having a hard time believing that the federal government in this day and age is treating the Metis people the way the other First Nations people are being treated. Mr. Dent has alluded to the national day care program in terms of the Inuit people. So maybe we need to do something radical by not administering this program. We're guilty. We're wiping our hands and saying it's not our program, here. We don't have enough teeth to put real pressure on the government. Again the Metis people are losing in society, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the federal, sorry. Mr. Dent, maybe you should be a federal Minister. I want to ask Mr. Dent...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Oh, God.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** ...what is he doing in terms of ensuring the Metis people have equal access to programs such as UCEP, because it's long overdue? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 265-15(4): UCEP Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we're not successful in the course of the next few months getting the federal government to agree to better support the program and to support it more equitably in the Northwest Territories, I would have to agree with the Member. We're going to have to consider giving the program back to the federal government. Thank you.

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

**Question 266-15(4): Specialized Resources For Communities**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I made a few hours ago...

---Laughter

...I was talking about the need for first contact workers to be qualified. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and

Social Services about the government's direction in regard to qualifications for first contact workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 266-15(4): Specialized Resources For Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a few years back now alcohol and drug workers laboured, often in obscurity, by themselves in isolation in communities not tied into any other health and social services program, with very low pay and no benefits, very little qualification requirements, and over the last few years we came up with a Mental Health and Addiction Strategy that focused on community resources. We put money into salaries and benefits and training. We converted addictions workers to community wellness workers. We added mental health workers and some clinical supervisors, the whole intent being to link them into the system of integrated service delivery to allow them to work with social workers, nurses and other folks, as well as to recognize the value of the work that they're doing and important work as first contact people. That is the direction we've been going. We've spent considerable time and effort to put a greater value and recognition on the work that alcohol and drug workers used to formerly do. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 266-15(4): Specialized Resources For Communities**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding, and I could be wrong, is that mental health and addictions workers need a master's degree and the community wellness workers require bachelors' degrees. If this is true, is this affecting the department's ability to recruit and retain people? Because a lot of them I would imagine would need to be brought in because you wouldn't have a lot of people in the community with these types of qualifications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 266-15(4): Specialized Resources For Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do place a value and recognize the importance of experience and knowledge of the North, if you can speak an aboriginal language, if you know the community and you've grown up there, and we have capacity. While we've tried to improve the credentials and qualifications, we have the ability to recognize equivalencies and experience and to recognize and allow us the ability to put to work and not lose that tremendous resource. Thank you.

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

**Question 267-15(4): Rent Scale**

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

Mr. Speaker, my question today will be for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, but it's with respect to the rent scale being too high. I'd like to focus on the hardship that the current rent scale imposes on my constituents in saving for a down payment or just getting ahead in life, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment tell this Assembly how the rent scale for social housing is determined? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 267-15(4): Rent Scale**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the rent scale for housing is still determined through the Housing Corporation, and the Minister isn't here right now. But I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

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

**Question 268-15(4): Funding For Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to Mr. Dent. The Minister has indicated over and over again in this House with regard to extraordinary funding or possibly that they'd allow it or anything that could keep this day care centre open. He said over and over again that he doesn't have money and that he's not going to do anything about it. But I'd like to know, Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House get all sorts of requests for approval of all sorts of different extraordinary funding. Government comes to us for millions of extraordinary funding and, we haven't seen anything for day cares. I'd like to know from the Minister whether he's ever gone to the FMBS to see if he could get any help from his colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 268-15(4): Funding For Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my response to Mrs. Groenewegen earlier, when we were in the business planning process this year, we looked at what the needs were and, recognizing that we thought at the time, since other jurisdictions were signing their deals with Canada, that we would see a significant amount of money coming from that program that we could benefit from. So we had thought that the money to be able to expand the programming would come through the early learning and childcare program that the federal government had offered. We didn't put that into our business plan for this year. In previous years yes, we had put money in the Early Childhood Program. We've added money and, in particular, the biggest pot was for the Language Nest Program. So we have added money to the program, but not in terms of benefits to operators. We were counting on ELCC federal funding to be able to do that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 268-15(4): Funding For Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been getting lots of documents with regard to this issue, and there has been nothing, no indication whatsoever, from the Minister's office that ever communicated to this centre that if he got any money from the federal government that they were going to get helped. I mean, the department is so bent on closing this down there's just no room to move whatsoever. Mr. Speaker, the people out there are quite disgusted that the Minister responsible for women and children could be so unsympathetic. So I'm going to stick to what he's doing as Minister, and I want to know when the last time is that he looked into his department's budget or FMBS to see if he could help out this file. When is the last time he went to bat for a day care programs, and how did he do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 268-15(4): Funding For Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I got to bat for day care programs regularly. Most recently was last week when I was in Ottawa with Minister Dryden. I would agree that we need to look at putting more money into the program, but as I said to the Members, we had thought that, given the other pressing issues that we have...I have talked to parents all across the Northwest Territories who tell me how much money they need to see added to funding for special needs. I talk to teachers about the pressures in the classroom. We talk about all of the other needs that we have, whether it's more funding for the food basket for income support, whether it's more funding for seniors and how much we can give them through the fuel subsidy or through their pensions. We have all sorts of pressures and all sorts of programs that this government hasn't been able to adequately support. We thought we had an opportunity here to find some extra money from the federal government. That's really where the anger should be directed, is at somebody who offered all Canadians an opportunity to take advantage of a national program and yet they're saying that North of 60 we just don't get it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 268-15(4): Funding For Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the life of me, I don't understand why the Minister has to keep talking about what he couldn't do; what he wasn't able to achieve from Ottawa. How is that doing anything for this file? I want to concentrate what he can do with his own influence and I'm asking a very specific question. Mr. Speaker, I could tell you that the operator of this day care centre is copious in the way she writes and communicates, and I know for a fact that she's been communicating with the department for months and months and months. So I want to know, in any of that time, what did he do to see if he could help the centre? What did he do? Did he go to FMBS? Did he direct his staff to see if they could help

them? What did he do? I just want to know one thing he did to save this day care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 268-15(4): Funding For Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've met with the operator, I've talked with the operator, I have been working with the department to make sure that operator is getting the same level of support as everybody else. That's what we do. We support all the day cares across the Northwest Territories. The Member has chosen one day care and asked that we give them extra special treatment. If we were to match that treatment all across the Northwest Territories it would probably cost us \$1.4 million. Well, I'd be happy to go to my colleagues and see if I could get that, but I can't offer extra special treatment to one day care and not offer it to all the others. So, certainly I'll discuss that with my colleagues, whether or not they're prepared to come forward and add \$1.4 million into that supp.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Your final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 268-15(4): Funding For Day Care Services**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope everybody notices by his answers how little he has been doing to help with this day care, Mr. Speaker. I'm fighting for this one day care, but I'm fighting for all of them. The Minister is insisting on making sure that all of them fail. So I'm asking very specific questions. He said that he's not giving. The latest e-mail conversation he had with the day care operator was last week. But then he sends a letter saying sorry, too bad, there's nothing I can do for you. Go away. I'd like to know if he has never gone to FMBS for money, and he is the Minister responsible for women and children, how the heck does he know that there's no support from the government? Why is he doing his job like that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 268-15(4): Funding For Day Care Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member obviously wasn't listening. I said I did go in for support for early childhood programs and I got support from my colleagues when it came to the Language Nest Program. We have talked about early childhood programming in other areas, and I told my colleagues that we were going to benefit from this national program that other provinces were going to benefit from. We made the mistake of believing that we were going to be able to participate in a program that the Liberal government announced and, to their credit, have brought forward. But thus far we haven't been able to see it in the North. I think it's also important to remember that I didn't announce the closure of this day care centre. I have had nothing to do with saying that it should close. The operator has said that she cannot keep operating without increased support. I have never announced the closure. We were responding to, that letter was responding to a communication from the operator. That's all that it is. It's not a notice that they

have to terminate. It's a response to a communication. Thank you.

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

**Question 269-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask one final question about the cash and the trash with regard to the recycling container program. The people of Colville Lake have written a letter and taken time from that community. In seven days, this program is going to be implemented, and in that community, or any other community that doesn't have a depot, there is going to be a licensed facility in the community, so these people can take their containers and trash and get some cash from these facilities, whether it's a co-op, or youth program, or NGO. Would they be able to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 269-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the wheels of ENR are already turning, albeit with some anguish that we committed things in such a tight timeline. What I have committed to is, in those communities that don't have officially signed up depots, we will make arrangements so that every northerner has capacity and a place to be able to return their beverage containers for the appropriate refund. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member to ask his supplementary questions. Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 269-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these deposits are pretty high in the Northwest Territories. I want to make it very clear that it's going to be very expensive to upkeep in the communities. How will we let our people know about the very specific and explicit terms, and the importance of this program? In the Sahtu, there are no depots in the region. It's going to be, "Handle this program." Can the Minister assure the people in the Sahtu that there will be centres or licensed facilities in the region? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 269-15(4): Beverage Container Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad this is not a case of "depot calling the kettle black."

---Laughter

Yes, Mr. Speaker. If I could prick my finger and write it with blood, yes, I will honour the commitments I made in this House.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

##### Written Question 17-15(4): Treaty/Land Claim School Instruction

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

1. What are the grade levels in the Sahtu schools where students are taught about treaties 8 and 11 and the Sahtu land claim?
2. What is the percentage of the courses on treaties or land claims taught per grade?
3. Can the department list the resources/documents that are used in teaching the students about Treaty 11 and Sahtu land claim?
4. Who are the teachers or community members used in teaching the treaties or the land claim in Sahtu schools?
5. How much of the social studies content is on the Treaty 11 and the Sahtu land claim?
6. How many elders in the Sahtu have been invited to Aurora College, our learning centres, or our schools as professors or instructors specifically to provide instruction on aboriginal courses?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

##### Written Question 18-15(4): Adult Literacy

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

1. Could the Minister tell me how much of the funding allocation went to the Adult Literacy Basic Education (ALBE) through Aurora College and how much did Aurora College actually spend from the Literacy Strategy for each community last year?
2. I know that enrolment figures and completing rates are significantly low in ALBE, but can the Minister give an explanation for the enrolment data to include completion rates in ALBE programs for 2004-2005, by community?
3. I would like to see the information that shows how much money was spent in the Literacy Strategy and in what communities, as well as what programs used the money. Can the Minister provide information on the total budget allocation for the various literacy

funds under the Literacy Strategy, and the amount each community received through the various literacy funds available through the strategy?

4. I am certain that there are many NWT residents who would like to know how the GNWT has responded to the recommendations of the interim evaluation of the Literacy Strategy. Can the Minister provide information on what has been done to follow up on the recommendations of the interim evaluation of the NWT Literacy Strategy and the government's response to the recommendations from the interim evaluation?

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

##### Written Question 19-15(4): ATCO/Novel Housing Project

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

1. Given that the NWT Housing Corporation has been actively engaged in negotiations with the federal government and that the ATCO/Novel housing project in Calgary, Alberta, when would the Minister provide the detailed plan on the entire project for public input and discussion?
2. What is the budget breakdown of this project in terms of who is paying for what: How much is the federal government paying; how much is the territorial government paying; and how much is ATCO paying? How is the territorial government going to fund its portion of the project, and what impact would this have on other NWT Housing Corporation projects?
3. Have the NWT Construction Association, NWT Chamber of Commerce, or NWT Association of Communities and aboriginal governments been given such a public plan for discussion with their constituents? If not, when will they be provided this information?
4. How does the ATCO/Novel housing project plan include involvement of northern builders and suppliers, not only in how to take part in the ATCO/Novel housing project, but on other options that would be available for the \$220 million plus housing project?
5. What other options have been considered on how to spend the \$220 million plus housing investment and meet the social housing needs of the North, other than going with the ATCO/Novel housing project, and what cost-benefit analysis has been done?
6. How does this ATCO Novel plan include training opportunities for northern labour in northern communities, in what communities, in what regions, how many people, and how?
7. How does this plan include meaningful partnerships with other departments and agencies such as Aurora College, the departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and Transportation with the construction

and building industries of the North? Please explain their roles in detail.

8. What work has been done with municipal governments and aboriginal governments to ensure a cooperative partnership regarding land development? Is there an inventory or plan on how the government will have 1,400 lots on which to place those mobile units?
9. Has there been any survey or means for input from the potential tenants to gauge the interest or support for this mega project?
10. How much money would it cost the proponents of the pipeline project or ATCO/Novel housing, whichever is responsible, to pay for the removal of the campsite trailers if they had to move them after use and they were not turned into Novel housing units?
11. The Minister indicated in this House that he expects to move 100 mobile units a year. Given that estimate, it will take at least 14 years to move 1,400 units. In the interim, where would these units be stored, secured, and protected from the elements and potential vandalism?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

#### **ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

##### **Committee Report 4-15(4): Report On The Review Of The Information And Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report 2003-2004**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is pleased to provide its Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report 2003-2004 and commends it to the House.

##### **Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report 2003-2004**

#### **Background**

The NWT's Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, ATIPP, came into force on December 31, 1996. The purpose of the act is to make public bodies more accountable and to protect personal privacy by giving the public a right of access, with limited exceptions, to records held by the GNWT and related public bodies, and by preventing the unauthorized collection, use or disclosure of personal information by the GNWT and related public bodies. The act also gives individuals the right to see and make corrections to information about themselves.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly and is required, under section 68 of the act, to prepare and submit an annual report. Ms. Elaine Keenan-Bengts was reappointed as the NWT's Information and Privacy

Commissioner in the May-June 2005 session, for another five-year term.

Several amendments to the act came into force April 1, 2004, including new powers for the Commissioner to investigate and make recommendations on privacy complaints. Many of these amendments were made in response to recommendations the Commissioner made in previous annual reports. Additional amendments to the act have passed third reading and are ready for assent by the Commissioner of the NWT.

#### **General Comments**

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight held a public meeting with Ms. Keenan-Bengts on June 29, 2005, to review her 2003-2004 annual report.

The committee was pleased to note that in her opening comments, the Commissioner commented on the positive trend toward openness and transparency among government departments since the act came into force over eight years ago. The Commissioner emphasized the importance of cultivating a culture of openness within GNWT agencies and noted that most departments are moving slowly, but surely, toward this. She stressed the crucial role that bureaucrats play in portraying openness, accountability and garnering the trust of the public vis-à-vis government.

#### **Motion To Receive Committee Report 4-15(4) And Move To Committee Of The Whole, Carried**

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the introductory portion of the committee's report on the review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2003-2004 Annual Report. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Committee Report 4-15(4) be received by the Assembly and ordered in Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Committee Report 4-15(4) will be moved into Committee of the Whole.

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 Premier, Mr. Handley.

#### **ITEM 13: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS**

##### **Tabled Document 59-15(4): GNWT Strategic Plan - 2005 Progress Report**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled GNWT Strategic Plan - 2005 Progress Report.

**Tabled Document 60-15(4): GNWT Strategic Plan - 2005 Compendium Of NWT-Wide Measures**

I would also like to table the following document entitled GNWT Strategic Plan - 2005 Compendium of NWT-Wide Measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 61-15(4): Reviewing The Condominium Act Of The Northwest Territories: A Consultation Paper**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents entitled Review the Condominium Act of the Northwest Territories: A Consultation Paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 62-15(4): Package Of Three Letters Re: Aurora World Invitation**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I'd like to table three letters, one dated April 27, 2005, from the vice-president of Aurora World; a second letter, dated May 9<sup>th</sup>, to Minister Bell, from me; and a third letter, May 24<sup>th</sup>, a letter to me from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Mr. Ted Hughes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Tabled Document 63-15(4): Letter And Yellowknifer Article Re: Resident Audiologists**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table two documents. One is a letter from the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** What?

**MR. BRADEN:** ...dated October 23, 2005, circulated to all MLAs. The letter brings to the Assembly's attention the shortage of audiologists. The second document, Mr. Speaker, is a newspaper commentary by Dawn Doig, an audiologist here in the Northwest Territories, dated February 8, 2002. 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 64-15(4): Letters And E-mails Re: Closure Of The Rainbow Child Care And Development Centre**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table four documents, and I would like to state that all these were sent to me, so I have proprietary rights on them. Mr. Speaker, it's a letter from Minister Dent to Ms. Aimee Clark, dated October 18, 2005, regarding closure of the Rainbow Childcare and Development Centre; a letter dated October 19<sup>th</sup> from Kathleen Purchase, campus director of Aurora College, to Aimee Clark, regarding the

closure of the day care centre; a copy of an e-mail from Aimee Clark from Kathleen Purchase, responding to this letter, dated October 20<sup>th</sup>, and an e-mail from Minister Miltenberger to Aimee Clark, dated October 25, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 65-15(4): Two Letters Re: GNWT Beverage Container Program**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table two documents: one from Our Land of the Snows Mission, Mr. Bern Will Brown, and also a letter to me from Margaret Brown, president of the Colville Lake Co-op, on the recycling program.

**Tabled Document 66-15(4): Annual Report Of The Official Languages Commissioner, 2004-2005**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 13, tabling of documents. Pursuant to section 23 of the Official Languages Act, I wish to table the annual report of the Languages Commissioner for the Northwest Territories, for the fiscal year 2004-2005.

**Tabled Document 67-15(4): Annual Report Of The Northwest Territories Information And Privacy Commissioner, 2004-2005**

Pursuant to section 68 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I wish to table the 2004-2005 annual report of the Northwest Territories Information and Privacy Commissioner.

I wish to thank both Commissioners for their patience in waiting for the reports to be tabled today. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Motion 10-15(4): Extended Adjournment Of The House To February 1, 2006**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 27, 2007, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, October 27, 2005, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, February 1, 2006; And further, that any time prior to February 1, 2006, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned for that time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.



**Motion 9-15(4): Setting Of Sitting Hours By Speaker**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give that on Thursday, October 27, 2005, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker, after consultation, deems fit to assist with the business before the House.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion he gave notice of earlier today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Yakeleya, you may deal with the motion you gave notice of earlier today. Mr. Yakeleya.

**ITEM 16: MOTIONS****Motion 9-15(4): Setting Of Sitting Hours By Speaker, Carried**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker, after consultation, deems fit to assist with the business before the House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. 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

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS****Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 11 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

**ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS****Bill 12: An Act To Amend The Territorial Court Act**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Territorial Court Act with respect to territorial judges, the Judicial Remuneration Commission, and the consideration of complaints relating to judicial conduct. The bill clarifies that a candidate from outside of the NWT may be considered for appointment to the bench, but must reside in the Territories if appointed. The amendments also permit a territorial judge to either swear or affirm the oaths of allegiance and office, enable the chief judge to designate a territorial judge to act in his or her place for absences of up to 40 days, and permit the territorial judges to make rules relating to the practice and procedure in the Territorial Court in civil matters. The bill changes the term of the Judicial Remuneration Commission from three years to four years and clarifies some matters that the commission must consider in making its recommendations. The bill also provides that any complaint to the Judicial Council respecting the conduct of a territorial judge shall be reviewed by the chairperson, who may refer the complaint to the chief judge for action if it relates to a minor matter. The bill also makes other minor amendments to the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 12 has had second reading and, accordingly, stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

**Bill 13: An Act To Amend The Financial Administration Act**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Financial Administration Act to provide authority to enter into agreements and transactions of a financial nature in respect of petroleum products, and to make regulations in respect of those agreements and transactions. The Revolving Funds Act is consequentially amended to clarify that financial settlement of such agreements and transactions is one of the purposes for which disbursements may be made from the petroleum products revolving fund established by that act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 13 has had second reading and, accordingly, stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Bill 14: Public Airports Act**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 14, Public Airports Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill sets out the Minister's authority over the establishment, administration and operation of public airports in the Northwest Territories. It includes provisions related to leases, licences and other agreements in respect of Commissioner's lands that are designated as Commissioner's public airport lands, and regulates commercial activity and traffic on such lands. The bill also allows for the development of regulations imposing fees, rates and charges to assist in offsetting the costs of public airports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 14 has had second reading and, accordingly, stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

#### **Bill 15: Court Security Act**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 15, Court Security Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill implements security measures for the protection of court personnel and persons attending court. The bill prohibits persons, other than authorized persons, from possessing weapons in court areas, and provides that security officers may screen persons for weapons if they are entering, or are in, court areas. The bill prohibits persons, other than authorized persons, from entering areas designated as restricted personnel zones, or from operating cameras, cell phones and certain other equipment in areas designated as restricted equipment zones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 15 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

#### **Bill 16: Tobacco Control Act**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill prohibits the smoking of tobacco, subject to certain exceptions, in public buildings, structures and vehicles, and in prescribed places. The bill prohibits the sale and supply of tobacco and tobacco accessories to persons under 18 years of age, and prohibits the sale of tobacco and tobacco accessories by certain means and in certain places. The bill also prohibits advertising and promotion of tobacco and tobacco accessories in some public places, and restricts the means of advertising, promotion and display in places where those activities are permitted. Proprietors of public places where smoking is prohibited must refuse service to persons contravening the prohibition on smoking, and may use reasonable means to remove a person who refuses to stop smoking. The bill provides for inspectors to enforce and administer the act and regulations, and provides for fines for contravention of the act. The bill imposes an automatic prohibition on the sale and storage of tobacco in, and the delivery of tobacco to, a place or premises in circumstances where the owner or occupant has repeatedly contravened one or more provisions relating to the sale of tobacco. The bill makes consequential amendments to the Tobacco Tax Act in respect of a dealer who is subject to an automatic prohibition under the Tobacco Control Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 16 has had second reading and, accordingly, stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

#### **Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Public Colleges Act**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Public Colleges Act to remove references that provide for multiple colleges so as to limit its application to Aurora College. The bill also

alters the composition and tenure of persons serving on the Aurora College Board of Governors, including:

- reducing the number of persons selected from each region to serve on the board from two to one;
- reducing the term of student representatives on the board from three years to one year;
- requiring that additional persons who may be appointed to the board by the Minister have expertise that would contribute to Aurora College operations.

References to the Science Advisory Council have been replaced by references to the Research Advisory Council. Mr. Speaker, the bill also provides Aurora College with express authority to grant prescribed applied bachelor degrees. Inoperative provisions are also repealed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 17 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

**Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 11 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. 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; and Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006, with Mr. Ramsay in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** I call Committee of the Whole to order. We have two items before us today. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to consider Bill 11.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. We will take a short break before we continue on with Bill 11.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Order, please. We are going to continue now with Bill 11. Minister Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006. This bill requests authority for additional appropriations of \$63.719 million for operation expenditures, and \$3.034 million for capital investment expenditures, in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

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

- a total of \$16.4 million for the additional expenses resulting from the finalization of the Collective Agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Union of Northern Workers;
- \$20 million for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to provide contribution funding to communities pursuant to the community capacity building initiative. These contributions are funded by the federal government's Northern Strategy trust fund;
- \$3.5 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for the provision of French and aboriginal language services in the NWT. The expenses will be fully offset by the revenues from the federal government;
- \$2 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for additional expenses resulting from the finalization of the Collective Agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association;
- \$1.3 million for energy conservation initiatives to help promote energy conservation and mitigate the impact on increased energy prices for the Government of the Northwest Territories and NWT residents.

The operations funding requests are within the 2005-2006 supplementary reserve. The major requests for capital investment expenditures are as follows:

- \$2.8 million for the Department of Transportation to advance funding from the 2006-2007 fiscal year for the airport passenger terminal building in Yellowknife, as the project is ahead of schedule and is anticipated to be near completion by the end of the fiscal year;
- a reduction of \$2.1 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in order to advance the joint design of construction of the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and Samuel Hearne Secondary School projects in Inuvik.

That concludes my opening remarks. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to answer any questions Members may have.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Minister Roland. I would now like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in witnesses for Bill 11.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

Mr. Minister, for the record, could you please introduce your witness?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me, this afternoon, Mr. Lew Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, Mr. Voytilla. General comments. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a bigger supplementary appropriation than we are normally used to dealing with. If we look at some of the items in here, they deal with issues that are, more or less, out of our discretion, or our jurisdiction, but we do have to book these things, and they include, as the Minister has already told us, a couple of fairly weighty items here. We are completing the implementation of the new Collective Agreement at about \$16 million; there's \$20 million booked as the federal government's Northern Strategy trust fund. So what does this Assembly have discretion on? It's about a \$17 million amount, arguably.

Mr. Chairman, to drill right into a question, right off the bat, that I would like to put to the Minister, reflects on the grim news that he brought to us earlier today about the \$30 million situation, or loss that we are in, because of the unanticipated reduction in corporate income tax revenues coming to us. That is going to change our fiscal situation, even in its current year, quite considerably. Yet, before us, we have a spending bill that, at least in some part, we have some control over. What I wanted to ask the Minister was related to this bad news we got about \$30 million. Even though it was only a few days ago, are there any measures that he would like us to consider in terms of what is contained in this supplementary appropriation that might help our situation and alleviate the pain from this unexpected revenue shortfall? Is there anything you can do in this supp, Mr. Chairman, to address that situation? Thank you.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the supplementary document has been in the works since, probably, June of this year, as departments came forward for additional funding requirements. As the Member stated, we just received the news ourselves, within the Department of Finance, on Friday. One of the initial things I looked at was this document that is before us now, as to what areas there may be potential for reductions in. The Member listed off a number of areas that are out of our hands because of negotiations being concluded around our employees, as well as the money

from the trust fund, and there is another amount in there for transfer of assets to the Tlicho government, I believe.

So that shrinks the amount that we can look at for reductions. There are other pots of funding in this bill, as well, that are flow-through funds from federal programs. Realistically, in looking at this, there are very small amounts of money that we could look at, if absolutely necessary, that we could remove from this document, but we felt we should proceed with it. I intend to speak with my Cabinet colleagues on the issues around the news I announced today, and look at what we have to deal with in the future.

As I stated in my opening comments, we are still in a supplementary reserve, knowing that we had some large items to deal with coming down the pipe. So we are having to review the options in front of us. At that point, we will be ready to come back to Members to give our initial feel of where some areas can be met, or we can do things to mitigate the news that I have announced today. Thank you.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister also mentioned the significance on the capital spending side and our overall fiscal policy, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I am straying from the supp here, if you could give me some allowance for the Minister to advise on whether or not we should be looking into our capital spending projects for this year, and is there a need, or an opportunity, for us to make some adjustments in that area to accommodate this bad news we got today? Thank you.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we've begun to look at the preliminary results of what I announced, and the impacts of what that might mean to us, as a government. The fiscal responsibility policy requires us to have a surplus to help fund our capital program. At this time, our capital program has been fully committed to. To look at this year's capital program would not give us much in that area. What we've looked at with this announcement and our earlier results of where we might have to go, is we are going to have to look at the O and M expenditure side of our main estimates for the remainder of the year to see if we can try to find ourselves in the neighbourhood of about \$10 million. Thank you.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one more question back on the topic of the supp now. The bill contains a number of proposals related very directly to the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline project. Mr. Chairman, there are a growing number of signals that the pipeline project, as much as we overwhelmingly want to see this project go ahead, may not proceed as quickly as we had expected. Yet, we are being asked to approve a number of expenditures here and human resources related to this project. Does the Minister consider that if the project does not proceed, and we understand that the next deadline is potentially in the middle of November, will the government then be putting some of these spending

approvals on hold, or deferring them, if, indeed, there is a real slowdown, if not deferral, of the Mackenzie Valley project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we've heard quite regularly through our visits throughout the territory and meeting with leaders how, as a government, we didn't seem to be prepared when the announcement was made about proceeding to a pipeline, and we've heard it from proponents of the pipeline about the issues of the regulatory environment we have here in the Northwest Territories. As a government, we have to be prepared to move forward on these initiatives and be ready to take part when hearings do happen.

The Premier stated, in this House, that he's fairly confident that the pipeline project will proceed. All bodies involved are continuing to work on their initiatives to forward that project. Based on that, we feel that we need to continue on that track. If the news comes down in mid-November on the negative side of the scale, then we are going to have to re-evaluate how we proceed on a number of these fronts. Thank you.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you for your opening comments, Mr. Braden. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for his opening remarks with respect to Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006. We did pursue some of the details of it in an in-camera review with the Minister. It is being referred to like a mini budget because of the huge amounts of money flowing through it. That's about six percent of our total budget that is in this supplementary appropriation. I realize that some of it is in flow-through funding from the federal government, particularly with the Northern Strategy trust fund. I think it's a good thing that we get this going.

The supplementary appropriation speaks to creating some new positions, some new jobs. That is something that is going to be addressed, I believe, by Members on this side, as to the need for them and how it's determined we need more and more jobs. Just because we are getting more and more money, doesn't mean we need more and more jobs. Now we are getting less and less money, does that mean we need less jobs, Mr. Chairman? I am not sure how we determine how many jobs that we need.

With respect to the \$20 million with regard to the Northern Strategy trust fund, I know that we need \$35 million to go through with all the disbursements to the 33 communities. I am not quite sure why it's listed here as \$20 million. Could I get that question answered, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the amount you see for the community capacity

building initiative is \$20 million. The way it's structured is that communities have an opportunity to draw it down either one time or over a three-year period. We feel that the \$20 million will cover the initial requests by those communities that are ready to move on with their initiatives. When the drawdown becomes greater, we can go forward again with the remainder, or if it's a smaller portion, up until the \$35 million. So it can be drawn down over one year, or over three years. We feel that for those communities that will be ready to draw it down initially, this amount will cover that. Thank you.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am really happy to see and hear some extra funding with regard to the provision of French and aboriginal language services in the NWT. It says that expenditures will be fully offset by the federal government. I am not sure what program this is. It sounds like it's \$3.5 million flow-through funding, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister confirm that for me? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is, indeed, flow-through money from the federal government. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Back to general comments. Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of quick comments. I wonder why the Minister just couldn't take that \$35 million, when the Premier announced it for the Northern Strategy, and put it straight toward...I understand his response to Mr. Menicoche, but that should have been done.

On the \$16.4 million for the Union of Northern Workers and the NWT Teachers' Association, with those total amounts, is that going to cover the next few years?

Lastly, we did have an in-camera discussion on Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2. Earlier today, there were some suggestions made by the Minister that he would get back to some of the departments. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Just a reminder, specific reference to in-camera meetings should try to be avoided. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the information requests or the requests made as they were presented to Members, we have gotten back to departments and requested the information. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the funding here that is outlined in his opening comments, are some of these one-time funding proposals or ongoing transfers from the federal government to the territorial government? Are we going to see this again next year in terms of the funding? What type of pattern are we seeing? In light of what the Minister said regarding the news he got from the federal government, are we developing a strong

pattern? That is what I want to ask the Minister. Thank you.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the funding would break down in a number of ways. I think the best way to do it is once we get into the detail, we will be able to show which ones are one-time funding, and which may have a three-year window. For example, the Northern Strategy dollars are what we would call one-time funding. That's the way it's been explained to us. We can draw it down over three years. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount that is going to be needed to finalize the Collective Agreement between the GNWT and the Union of Northern Workers, is this over one year, or three years? The Northern Strategy funding trust fund is going to have a large percentage going to the communities. I think that is a good way to begin our working relationships with the communities. Thank you.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The UNW and the NWTTA numbers that are in this supplementary appropriation are ongoing. The dollars identified in this document are for this fiscal year for 2005-06. They will be added to the base and added to the budgets going forward. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last comment is in terms of how a portion of this fund will be allocated to the smaller regions and communities. There is huge money going to operations. The majority of the \$20 million is going into the communities as we listen to the people who were voicing their opinions as to having no control over the funding. It's not so much of a question, Mr. Chairman; it's more of a comment. I think we can get into details later on. I will leave it at that.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Northern Strategy dollars for the community capacity building fund is one of those where we were transferring the spending authority to the communities. There are a number of stipulations that are on that for accounting purposes between ourselves and the federal government. We've broken that down so that it is what we would call a base funding, and then topped up with per capita funds. Looking at the Sahtu, using Tulita as an example, the way it would break down is everybody across the territory, all communities, get the initial \$606,000, and then a per capita number adjusted. In the case of Tulita, it would be another \$160,600, for a total of \$766,600. So that's the way we have set that fund up.

The rest of the document before you is based on departments' requests for additional funding for specific

areas of their departments. That is not broken down by per capita or by region. It is driven by program expenditures. That's how it comes forward. So if it's a request for some capital dollars, it would go for a specific project. If it is for a program to deal with education, it would go into the category, whether it's languages or K to 12 programming. So that would breakdown that way and be distributed on formulas that are already existing. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognizing the clock, I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, committee. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witnesses.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Ramsay.

#### ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006, and would like to report progress, and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. There is a motion on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

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

#### ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Social Programs committee at adjournment of the House today.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
  - Motion 8-15(4), Energy Costs and Overall Cost of Living
17. First Reading of Bills
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 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006
  - Committee Report 4-15(4), Report on the Review of the NWT Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2003-2004 Annual Report
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 18:02 p.m.





