



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**4<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 21**

**15<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, February 2, 2006**

Pages 679 - 700

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Published under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, February 2, 2006****Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the House. I'd also like to welcome everybody that's in the gallery here to hear the budget address. Welcome to the House. Orders of the day. Budget address. The honourable Minister of Finance, Minister Roland.

---Applause

**ITEM 2: BUDGET ADDRESS**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Introduction**

It is my honour and privilege today to stand before you and Members of this Legislative Assembly to present the budget for the Northwest Territories for 2006-07. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Cabinet colleagues and the standing committees for their input, particularly for the committees' work on pre-budget consultations.

---Applause

This budget comes at an historic time. Many of us have looked ahead with hope to the day when the Northwest Territories would be self-reliant and strong, with a thriving economy, jobs and opportunities for our people. Today, those are no longer just dreams. We're on the brink of tremendous economic opportunities; opportunities that will test our imagination and our ability to respond; opportunities that will transform the Northwest Territories into a key economic driver, not only for the North, but for all of Canada.

The Northwest Territories is poised to become a leading player on Canada's resource development scene. The demand for our energy resources has never been greater.

The Mackenzie Valley pipeline -- once only a far-off dream -- is on the verge of becoming a reality. Public hearings have already begun. If approved, it will open the doors to the vast natural gas reserves of the Mackenzie Delta and the Beaufort Sea.

Our two diamond mines have made the Northwest Territories the third largest producer of gem quality diamonds in the world. Now a third mine is under construction and a fourth is at the approval stage.

These economic developments will not only create jobs and business opportunities, they will bring new hope and opportunities for our people. They will help make our vision for the Northwest Territories a reality. They will

allow self-reliant individuals and families to share the rewards and responsibilities of healthy communities and a prosperous and unified Northwest Territories. They will provide the resources for us to invest in infrastructure, give our children the best possible education, improve our health system, preserve our environment, and build stronger communities.

Mr. Speaker, all of this is possible for the Northwest Territories, but only if two essential conditions are met.

First, as a government, and as citizens of the Northwest Territories, we have to do our part. That means using our revenues wisely and adhering to our fiscal responsibility policy. It means investing in essential services that will bring the best long-term benefits to the people and communities of the Northwest Territories. It means creating a positive environment for business so they see the Northwest Territories as a good place to invest and do business.

That's our part, Mr. Speaker, and we'll do our part through the decisions and priorities reflected in this budget.

The other essential condition, Mr. Speaker, is to address the fundamental fiscal issues facing this government. This means working with the new federal government to take immediate action on long-standing issues that stand in the way of the Northwest Territories achieving its full potential.

As I stand here today, presenting the budget for 2006-07, we're in exactly the same position as we were at this time last year. While we have made progress on new short-term targeted funding arrangements under the previous federal government -- progress that has allowed us to invest in infrastructure, communities and our health system -- fundamental, long-term fiscal issues have not been resolved.

We have no resolution on a new approach to territorial formula financing. We have not reached agreement with the federal government on sharing of resource revenues, and we have not been able to lift the borrowing limit imposed on the Northwest Territories.

These are outstanding issues that can and must be resolved.

Mr. Speaker, just over a week ago, Canadians elected a new Conservative government lead by Prime Minister-designate Stephen Harper. On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I want to reiterate Premier Handley's congratulations to Mr. Harper and the Members of his new government.

We very much look forward to what Mr. Harper has consistently called a fresh new approach to government

and to relationships with provinces and territories. We were very pleased when he made the commitment at his first press conference last week, to begin negotiations on the fiscal imbalance issues that exist between jurisdictions in this country. The recognition of this important issue by the new federal government is a concrete and welcome step.

Most importantly, we listened carefully on election night when Mr. Harper spoke directly to the territories and told us he sees the potential in the North and looks forward to helping us achieve our dreams.

As a government and as Minister of Finance, we are ready and willing to work with the new Prime Minister and his government, and with our territorial and provincial partners to address these complex and important issues immediately.

The key word is immediately.

The issues related to territorial formula financing are specific and unique to the Territories. So are issues related to resource revenue sharing. There is no need to delay decisions on these critical issues for our territory and for the entire North while negotiations begin on complex issues related to the fiscal imbalance.

So as a government, we urge the new Prime Minister not to wait while other fiscal issues are discussed, but to seize the opportunity to establish a new partnership with Canada's North and take action on outstanding issues that stand in the way of tremendous progress in our territory. We are ready and eager to meet with him and the new Finance Minister to begin this new partnership immediately.

With these fundamental issues clearly in mind, let me turn now to some highlights from our budget for 2006-07.

### Setting A Bold Agenda

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories faces unprecedented opportunities. We cannot and will not shy away from these opportunities. We cannot and will not move forward with a timid budget full of half steps. It's time to be bold. It's time to be decisive.

Unlike past budget speeches, I do not intend today to go through all the details of various projects and initiatives included in the budget for 2006-07. All of that information is available in the budget documents and from individual Ministers. We look forward to an in-depth review in this House over the next several weeks.

Instead, I would like to highlight some areas that reflect the bold approaches we're taking in this budget.

First, the financial picture.

- For 2005-06, we are projecting an operating surplus of \$18 million. That's down from our original projection primarily because of an increase in spending needs and a decrease in corporate income tax revenues. It's important to note, Mr. Speaker, that we remain within the guidelines of our fiscal responsibility policy. That policy has served us well. In spite of the challenges we face, I can assure everyone listening today that we will continue to be sound financial managers for the Northwest Territories.

- Maintaining our commitment to responsible budgeting, the budget for 2006-07 projects an operating surplus of \$31 million. Spending in the current year includes a number of one-time initiatives, such as the community capacity building fund. Accounting for these one-time programs, our spending in 2006-07 is expected to increase by seven percent over last year's budget as we cope with increased social program costs, community infrastructure needs and the requirement for competitive wages. We expect our revenues to increase by about five percent. The bottom line is we will spend \$1.07 billion, take in revenues of \$1.1 billion, and invest \$111 million in capital projects in 2006-07.
- The prudent fiscal management approach that we have taken during this Legislative Assembly will allow us to meet our most immediate fiscal challenge. In 2006-07, the government will have to repay \$290 million in corporate income tax to reflect an overpayment of taxes that we received from the federal government in 2002. This will increase our borrowing by an estimated \$78 million. By year end, we anticipate our total debt to be \$223 million, a full \$77 million below the federally imposed borrowing limit.

Now for some details.

This budget is about seizing opportunities and maintaining momentum. It is designed to achieve four clear goals:

- to invest in priority areas;
- to set the stage for further investment and growth in our economy;
- to lay the groundwork for reducing the cost of living and raising income levels;
- and to position our government to manage development.

To achieve these four goals, our government will pursue an all-weather highway down the Mackenzie Valley and support the investment in engineering feasibility and environmental work on the Bear River hydro project.

Working with communities and industry, we'll pursue a comprehensive solution to the critical housing needs in the communities by promoting the conversion of pipeline workforce housing into more than 1,000 residential homes.

We will start to ease some of the most critical housing needs through a \$4 million allocation from the Northern Strategy Trust to build new affordable housing units in 14 of our smallest communities.

---Applause

In October 2004, this Legislative Assembly made a motion calling for a 10 percent reduction in core housing need. However, to make major progress towards this goal, we require the new federal government to follow through with the commitments made by the former federal housing Minister to provide \$100 million over the next three years to cost share more than 500 new affordable, energy-efficient homes in the Northwest Territories.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, we will follow through on the commitment by Members of this Legislative Assembly to support the development of well-governed and sustainable communities and regions. This budget commits an additional \$12 million in new program funding for communities, including \$4.5 million from the federal gas tax agreement. The budget also includes \$31 million in infrastructure contributions for community and regional operations, and almost \$3 million in water treatment plants and sewage and solid waste disposal sites in various communities.

In response to the input we received from Members, we will invest in energy conservation and the cost of living reduction strategies for the environmental and financial benefit of our residents. Mr. Speaker, subsidies and direct government support may be important in the short term, but they are not the long-term solution for this territory. We need to look at the factors that drive higher costs and address those factors head on. That means investing in transportation infrastructure to lower the cost of bringing goods into our communities. It means investing in hydropower to provide a cheaper, more environmentally-friendly energy source. It means protecting those who are least able to cope with rising costs. That's why we will spend an additional \$326,000 this year to increase the low-income senior citizen supplementary benefit from \$135 to \$160 per month.

Mr. Speaker, it is the responsibility of the Members of this Legislative Assembly to make sure future generations have the opportunities to benefit from the Northwest Territories' enormous economic growth. That means investing in workforce development and improvements to our education system so future generations have opportunities to learn and work right here at home.

With this year's budget we will invest a total of \$259 million in programs delivered by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, an increase of \$17 million from the current year. Additional money will go towards increasing our commitment to student support. We will provide additional support for full-time kindergarten. We will expand investment in school construction, building new schools in Tulita and Ndilo, replacing the schools in Inuvik, and investing in improvements in student residences for Aurora College students in Fort Smith and Inuvik. The investments we will make in these education projects will top \$120 million over the next few years.

On top of our investment in education, we will respond to the call from Members of this Assembly to expand our emphasis on youth programs. This budget invests half a million dollars in the Northern Youth Program funded from the Northern Strategy Trust. It increases our investment in the NWT Games program designed to expand sports and recreation services in communities and increase physical activity among youth. In total, almost \$700,000 has been added in this budget to support the NWT Games, Arctic Winter Games and the Canada Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, the health of our citizens is the priority of all Members of this Legislative Assembly. This budget invests over \$265 million in programs delivered by the Department of Health and Social Services, an increase of over \$18 million from the current year's budget. The additional money will go towards enhancing health care programs and addressing the higher costs of delivering

health care in the Northwest Territories. We will invest \$13 million in renovations to hospitals, treatment centres, medical equipment and upgrading hospital records.

This budget includes a \$400,000 investment from the Northern Strategy Trust in the NWT healthy choices framework to promote healthy lifestyles, break addictions and help people make productive and healthy choices. This year, participating departments will move forward with a coordinated curriculum for the Northwest Territories schools and strategies for promoting healthy eating and physical activity.

As I said at the outset, Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories is on the brink of unprecedented economic growth. We can't sit idly by and simply wait for that growth to magically appear at our doorsteps. We need to work for it. We need to create the environment where positive economic development can thrive. We need to carefully manage the impact of growth on our communities, our people, and our territory.

Our government intends to do just that.

We will participate fully and actively in the Mackenzie gas project to ensure that, if the project proceeds, the needs and concerns of our residents are addressed. Last fall, the Premier and I outlined the intentions of the Government of the Northwest Territories to develop a stable fiscal regime for the project. We will proceed with that commitment and work with industry and the federal government to ensure the pipeline proceeds in an environmentally sustainable manner.

This budget invests over \$1 million to complete the necessary feasibility studies and environmental baseline work necessary to proceed with the Taltson hydro expansion project.

Additional investments will be made in transportation, including capital improvements for our airports, our highway programs, and the Mackenzie Valley winter road bridge program.

We will continue to promote tourism in the Northwest Territories. This budget includes \$1 million to implement Tourism 2010, a multi-year tourism plan for the Northwest Territories that will help us compete for tourists from around the world. We will also invest in enhancing our parks and renovating the Prince of Wales museum.

Mr. Speaker, these are smart investments; investments that will help create a positive, strong and growing economy.

At the same time, we need to understand that, in a highly competitive environment, having the right combination of resources and the necessary infrastructure isn't enough. Businesses can and do take their investments anywhere in the world. To encourage businesses and industry to locate and do business here in the Northwest Territories, we have to compete, and we have to compete on taxes.

We simply cannot afford to see businesses continue to file their income tax outside of the NWT in order to avoid higher tax rates.

That is why I am pleased to announce today that the Northwest Territories corporate income tax rate on large corporations will be reduced to 11.5 per cent, effective

July 1, 2006. I will be introducing the legislation to implement this change during the budget session.

---Applause

Our small business corporate income tax rate, at four percent, is well below the national average. However, we continue to work with the business community in the Northwest Territories to determine how we can best support our small business sector. This tax rate is part of our deliberations and we hope to soon bring forward a proposal for Members to consider. All other taxes will remain the same as a result of this year's budget.

Mr. Speaker, there are more details and more spending announcements in the budget documents. We are on the verge of tremendous economic growth. We are preparing for that growth carefully, thoughtfully, and deliberately. We're investing wisely. The benefits of the opportunities in our territory will flow not only to people here in the North, but also to Canada as a whole.

### **A New Partnership With The Federal Government**

That brings me back, Mr. Speaker, to the second condition necessary for us to achieve our goals: a new and cooperative working relationship with the federal government.

We are at a critical stage. From a fiscal perspective, four key issues stand in the way of us achieving the full potential for this territory and for our people; four issues that require a resolution with the federal government.

First, we need a new funding arrangement with the federal government that reflects the needs of the Northwest Territories. The current fiscal arrangements simply cannot continue. Not only are they inadequate to meet the reality of the Northwest Territories, but in many ways they act as a disincentive to the Northwest Territories moving forward.

In the past year, we have worked with the panel established by the Council of the Federation and the expert panel established by the federal government to make our positions clear. We are optimistic that our views have been heard by both those panels and we look forward to seeing both reports this spring. However, decisions on a new approach to territorial formula financing are in the hands of the federal government. Those decisions are both urgent and critical to the Northwest Territories. We intend to use the coming weeks and months to make our positions well known to the new federal government and to press them for action on an immediate basis.

Second, we need to reach a fair resource revenue sharing agreement with Canada.

Our territory's abundance of natural resources is our best opportunity for the future. It holds the potential for us to become a thriving, self-reliant and prosperous territory.

But as it stands today, the federal government controls virtually all of the natural resources in the Northwest Territories, and the benefits of that control flow directly to the federal government. In 2004-05, federal public accounts show that the federal government took in over \$270 million in resource revenues from the Northwest Territories and this amount is growing every year. In comparison, the Northwest Territories public accounts

showed only \$3.5 million in corporate income tax revenues in that same year.

That situation would never be tolerated in a province like Alberta. It wasn't accepted in Newfoundland and Labrador or Nova Scotia where special accords recognize their unique needs, and it won't be tolerated in Saskatchewan if their government has its way. Why should it be tolerated in the Northwest Territories?

What we're asking for is a fair deal; a deal that gives our territory a net fiscal benefit from the resources of our land. That benefit should cover the costs involved in resource developments, and ensure adequate incentives for economic development. It must allow us to fund our ongoing programs and, at the same time, invest in developing our labour force, our infrastructure and our economy, so all our residents share in the benefits of development.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to put negotiations for a resource revenue sharing agreement on fast forward. During the recent election campaign, Prime Minister-designate Harper stated that he believed "...northerners should be the primary beneficiaries from the development of northern resources." Mr. Speaker, this was a bold and welcome statement for this territory and we are committed to working with Mr. Harper in the very short term to make this a reality.

Third, we welcomed the Government of Canada's commitment to provide \$500 million over 10 years to address the social and economic impacts of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. We expect the new federal government will live up to this critical commitment. But one-time funds, no matter how large or how welcome, do not provide a long-term source of sustainable revenues that can be used to guide future plans and decisions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we need the federal government to lift the arbitrary \$300 million borrowing limit imposed on the Northwest Territories. This borrowing limit flies in the face of the principle of territorial political autonomy. It reflects an outdated and unreasonable view that we cannot make sound financial decisions on our own, and it does not reflect the fact that the government's borrowing ability should be based on our capacity to finance debt rather than be set at a fixed level.

Last February, this Legislative Assembly demonstrated our commitment to fiscal responsibility. We maintained that commitment with this year's budget. Our fiscal responsibility policy sets clear guidelines and a responsible definition of acceptable borrowing limits. The policy was instrumental in achieving an Aa3 credit rating from Moody's Investors Services, and it should be more than sufficient for the federal government to act immediately to remove the debt limit.

### **Concluding Comments**

Mr. Speaker, this is an unprecedented time in our history; a time when our dreams of prosperity, growth and self-sufficiency are fast becoming a reality.

This budget sets a bold agenda. It invests in priority areas, and it positions our territory to seize the opportunities for economic growth and transform them into benefits for all our citizens. It's an important step, but there's much more work to be done. In the coming months, my work will



focus on two priorities. First, developing a broad macroeconomic policy for the Northwest Territories.

The Northwest Territories faces important questions as we proceed with economic development. We know we need to make investments. This budget lays the groundwork for many of these investments, but our resources will not be unlimited, even with new fiscal arrangements with Ottawa. We will need to make choices and set priorities. What investments should be made first and how much should be invested? Should we invest millions in transportation infrastructure to further industrial development, grow trade among communities, and reduce the cost of living? Should we invest dramatically in housing or take action to improve education results and promote greater personal self-reliance? Should we invest in hydro-electricity or skills development?

With the help of every Member of this Legislative Assembly, recognized experts, aboriginal governments, the business community, organizations, industries and communities, we will research and discuss these big questions and develop a new economic blueprint for the Northwest Territories.

Second, Mr. Speaker, outstanding issues with the federal government must be resolved. My commitment is to use all my energy, influence and determination to make sure these issues are resolved, and resolved for the benefit of the Northwest Territories and its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting time in the Northwest Territories; a time of hope and optimism about the future, a time when our dreams for the territory, for communities, and for our children can be realized. Now it's time to get to work.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. I think Members will agree that our Finance Minister probably needs a bit of a break now. I would like to encourage everybody to join our Finance Minister out in the Great Hall for a bit of a reception. I will call a half-an-hour break for the House. Thank you, Members.

---SHORT RECESS

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to call the House back to order. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

##### Member's Statement On Reflections On Budget Address

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest today as the Finance Minister delivered his budget address. It was a rather abbreviated version from what we are used to hearing in budget addresses. For the benefit of those who came from distant communities, I think they expected a little more detail. For those of us on this side of the House, we appreciated the brevity.

The repeated reference to unprecedented opportunities and growth make a point that is very true. However, I think we need to analyze who the real beneficiaries are of that growth and opportunity. Industry is and will realize much

of the profit from the extraction of NWT resources. The federal government is and will continue to benefit from the royalties paid on those resources. I wish I could say the same of our territorial and aboriginal governments. After 10 years in this government, I am very discouraged by the lack of progress on devolution and resource revenue sharing discussions. We are so anxious for more development, but development has to be for the benefit of not just a few; it has to be for the public good, as well. We can't afford, as a government, to underwrite the cost of wear and tear on our infrastructure and the stress on our social networks without realizing real tangible and monetary benefits to the public purse for the benefit of all northerners from resource development, and we can't ignore the work that needs to be done on the home front, as well. I don't think we can say that we have ever gone to Ottawa to discuss devolution and resource revenue sharing with a plan that has been endorsed by all of the recognized governments in the Northwest Territories, public and aboriginal.

I hope that this bold new approach that Mr. Roland refers to will play out in the leadership role our government needs to take at home in obtaining support and buy-in from our northern governments, as well as the leadership that needs to be shown in our dealings with the federal government.

As more development occurs and Canada becomes more accustomed to the vast royalties projected to be generated from northern resources, I have always maintained that our negotiating position and efforts will be more difficult. We need a strong and unified position from the North to Canada. We have a wonderful window of opportunity with a new government in Ottawa, and I hope that we will see the use of all of our resources at our disposal to keep our message front and centre. If we need to engage policy experts, let's do it. If we need to retain the services of former Members of this Assembly, let's do it. We need a plan and we need a deal that should be bold, and I support and encourage the Ministers of our government to take those measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

##### Member's Statement On Decentralization Of Government Programs And Positions

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to raise a similar issue to what I did yesterday in my statement about the dogmatic, out-of-touch, yet sumptuous bureaucratic system located in Yellowknife, and why this 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly has to seriously consider restructuring and perhaps downsizing by way of decentralizing or relocating various components so that we can all say with confidence that our Legislative Assembly is actually in control and can change and influence its own bureaucratic bulldog.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that we are losing ground on retaining this control of this once reputable and trustworthy companion we call the public service of the Northwest Territories. The people who are the first to see the façade of good, fair, balanced public service that is supposedly

professional and impartial are the people in the remote and smaller communities.

This government is certainly not impartial, by any stretch of the word, when it comes to addressing small community concerns versus the concerns raised in our larger centres. Infrastructure, housing, economic development and health are only some of the areas that are out of balance. By out of balance I'm talking about things like the time it takes to react to the small community concerns is never as quick as the large centres. The time to assess or assert responsibility always gets passed back and forth between the GNWT, the First Nations and/or the small community councils, who never have enough resources to address the deficiency anyway, with no positive resolutions in place.

The resolution of many concerns like property taxation, homeownership, income support, small business support, and alternative health care issues all seem to have become permanent warts on our bureaucratic bulldog backside. A puppy whimpers because it wants to rid itself of these ailments, but does not take consistent, planned, and agreeable approaches when applying wart remover to remove these ailments. So, Mr. Speaker, we need to have the assistance, cooperation and the full participation of our smaller communities if our bureaucratic bulldog wants to disinherit itself of these aging warts on its backside. Then we can all confidently say that it is possible to teach an old dog new tricks. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The budget address has given us a new platform and starting point. Just a couple of the highlights that I pick off the address that Mr. Roland has given us; we're going to start the year with a forecast surplus of \$18 million. I'm pleased to see this and that we're going to be doing this within the terms of the fiscal responsibility framework, the fiscal responsibility policy that I'm a big supporter of, and I want the government to know that I'm happy to see that we're staying within those terms and hope that we can continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, we also note that we're spending seven percent more in this budget, but our revenues are only increasing by five percent. On that rough measure -- and I know there's other things that go along with it -- we're still not managing within our means. This places so much more significance and importance on getting a new and sustainable, realistic formula financing deal with Ottawa; something that has escaped us for so long.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also reflect that the budget mentions Mr. Harper and the new Conservative government many times. This is again a reality of ours. We are a creature of the pleasure of the federal government. We have placed a lot of emphasis and significance, a lot of our future is on what the Finance Minister says our relationship is going to be with Mr. Harper and the new government. Maybe so, but I think we could demonstrate some more independence, and some more spirit, and some more

gumption, and some more drive and initiative of our own by saying here's what we're going to do and not putting quite so much reliance on the new federal government. But I really do look forward to the relationships and improvements in our situation with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On RCMP Presence In Sachs Harbour**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recently had an opportunity to visit my constituents in Sachs Harbour from January 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006. I was able to do home visits with many residents and hold a constituency meeting. I would like to thank the people of Sachs Harbour for their hospitality during my visit.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that this will come as no surprise to you that the number one concern for the residents of Sachs Harbour is the lack of RCMP presence in the community. I have raised this issue in this House on a number of occasions and am beginning to wonder if we will ever address this concern. Are we going to wait, Mr. Speaker, until something drastic happens? I hope not. An RCMP presence in Sachs Harbour will give the residents the same level of comfort and protection that the majority of the NWT residents expect.

I understand, from my visit, that there was an incident that occurred over the Christmas holidays. When I left on January 12<sup>th</sup>, the RCMP was expected to arrive the next day. I do not think a resident of Yellowknife would accept a two-week waiting period before a complaint is investigated.

In a previous Member's statement, the question was directed to the Minister of Justice regarding what the department is doing to address the RCMP presence. The Minister of Justice advised, very suddenly, that he had formed a committee to address the issues and policing in communities without a police presence. What are we doing with these discussions?

Mr. Speaker, what are we doing as a government? Are we going to study the issue and make no decisions until there is a tragedy? Would the people of Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith or Inuvik feel comfortable or safe without RCMP presence? I don't think so, Mr. Speaker. Prime Minister-designate Stephen Harper has promoted sovereignty in the Arctic. It will take years to mobilize the armed forces and build ice breakers. One option is to immediately send three RCMP officers to the community of Sachs Harbour to police the community and to guard the western approach of the Northwest Passage. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Members. Mr. Speaker, the residents of Sachs Harbour are entitled to the same level

of public protection that all the residents of Canada expect. Sometimes belonging to a society has a cost; a cost this government should be prepared to bear. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement is financing our own home. Mr. Speaker, they're saying that what is mine is mine and what is yours is mine. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to draw some parallels between somebody trying to finance their own household and this government trying to manage its own castle.

Mr. Speaker, now suppose that we live in one side of town and we have a whole bunch of hidden treasures in our home, and on the other side of town you have a wealthy uncle with a much bigger house, possibly a palace on the other side of town. However, you're in one community. But this uncle thinks that you don't know how to look after all that treasure, so he wants to help you out, sort of get you on your feet and assist you as you get on with life until you mature. But the catch is that this uncle wants you to trust him and allow him to manage your own affairs; manage your own treasures. He gives you a modest salary, just enough to cover what he figures your expenses should be. The amount will change from paycheque to paycheque. So you wouldn't know in advance what you are getting, but you are trying to plan the best you can to manage your life. At the same time, he sells off your treasures for you and keeps the money. He also lets you know that whoever he sells them to can come into your house and pick them up whenever they want. Sometimes they come in quietly and sometimes they come in very noisily. They also disturb your whole family. Maybe even sometimes they damage your house by ripping out some of the things from the wall or breaking things. Over time, the treasure gradually disappears and you have to wonder where would your rich uncle be on the day you have nothing left.

Mr. Speaker, to me, the home is our land full of treasures, irreplaceable resources. The federal government is the rich uncle who gives us a modest salary. This year we are expecting \$750 million in grants from the government. We don't know how much the next paycheque will be because we are still negotiating a new fiscal arrangement. We don't know yet how much the federal government made off our treasures in 2005. However, in 2004, they took \$270 million. That is just from the Norman Wells, a bit of gas reduction in the South and maybe some diamonds. Imagine how much the pipeline and more diamonds will be.

Mr. Speaker, we, in the Northwest Territories, want to become a have territory. We want to pay our own way, live within our own means, and earn Canadian respect.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Member's statement.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** ...earn Canadian respect as full and equal partners in Confederation, but the poor homeowners whose treasures are sold out from under them are forced to live from paycheque to paycheque and watch our resources disappear. We have little but any say in how much is sold at what price and under what condition.

Mr. Speaker, there is hope. A new guy has arrived in town -- president-elect Steven Harper and the Conservative government. Hopefully, they will be willing to listen and finally give the Northwest Territories the authority to manage our household responsibilities for future generations. I encourage the Premier and his Cabinet to put all their efforts to get the new federal government onside and finally get a fair share of the resource revenue sharing and devolution by territories. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Language Revitalization Programs**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is great to hear that there will be an increase in the ECE funding for the budget address. I have not heard of enhancing aboriginal language or culture programs, but, at the same time, I am also looking forward to seeing this in the budget in detail.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to highlight as one of the key areas I would like to focus on. Mr. Speaker, ECE has identified language and cultural-based education as their highest priority. The Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructors Program, called LCIP, I am happy to note, is currently under review with a draft plan in place for 2006.

The plan includes revising the current out-of-date program and extending the original program to a two-year diploma. It is great to see in here, Mr. Speaker. I commend the department for working so swiftly in this direction. This department is linked to the future of aboriginal language instructions in our schools and ultimately, Mr. Speaker, for the effective survival of our language and culture.

There are 11 official languages in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. Out of these 11, seven aboriginal languages are in the state of emergency. We have begun to put some programs in place, but I feel the need to stress the urgency of the situation. We need to act now with solid, concrete plans to revitalize these languages before it is too late, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment at the appropriate time. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Services For A New Generation Of Northerners**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will change gears a bit and take this opportunity to speak of what is new in Nahendeh this year and the support that we need. I am happy to announce that I am a new grandfather.

---Applause

I would like to announce that my son Keone and his spouse, Theresa Black, had a baby boy January 6<sup>th</sup> named Kayleb. I would also express my excitement for the many other babies in Nahendeh that were born recently. In Fort Simpson, Sharon Mandeville and Jeff Hardisty had a boy named Seth. Lisa Lafferty and Michael Tetso had a girl named Jacie. Trudy and Dennis Nelner had a girl named Olivia. Priscilla in Wrigley had a girl named Elizabeth. Wendy in Wrigley had a boy named Hunter. Delores and George in Wrigley had a boy named Orrin. Brenda and Floyd in Wrigley had a girl named Fiona. Sharon and Trapper Joe in Trout Lake had a boy named Eden. In Nahanni Butte, Joan and Jim Paul had a boy named Gerry.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, today the government released the budget and I would like to take this opportunity to express the continued importance of funding for day care services facilities and staffing. It is critical for this government to recognize the important day care facilities when in communities, and all communities and all intergovernmental day care initiatives, and be more proactive and creative to address day care concerns. When families and residents are not able to participate in the workforce, their personal and financial freedom is seriously limited.

With that, Mr. Speaker, these new children and those who come rely on our decisions to create their future. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the fact that our Finance Minister has delivered his budget address today, I feel compelled to comment on some observations that I have had after having now listened to the last three budget addresses.

I find it very ironic that the Finance Minister has delivered his budget address on Groundhog Day. I wonder if he has ever seen the movie Groundhog Day where Bill Murray plays a weatherman who lives the same day over and over again. Every day is Groundhog Day. It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that each budget that has been delivered by this government seems eerily similar to the one before it.

It is like we are living in a very bad dream that has lasted 13 years. No fiscal surety, no deal on devolution, no deal on resource revenue sharing, no substantial new vision or focus. We continue as a government to just roll along. Thankfully for our residents, our economy continues to flourish. How can our economy grow 20 percent last year and yet we still struggle to balance our books year in and year out? How can we break the cycle of each budget being a mere image of the one before it? We need to focus our attention on the three big priorities facing the Northwest Territories: devolution, resource revenue sharing and fiscal surety.

With the new government in Ottawa, it is time for us to finally wake up from the bad dream that we were in and focus on the future. I take the issue of fiscal responsibility very seriously. I take any opportunity I can to try and tell the government that we have to look very closely at how we spend our money.

There are many examples of how restructuring and so-called efficiency and effectiveness initiatives do not actually save the government anything but end up costing much more. When a department seems set to lose a few positions, they miraculously appear as new initiatives under a new heading.

We need a thorough examination of our operations. We need to have a vision, a focus, and be able to spend more money where it is needed on areas like social issues and economic and business development. We have to take every opportunity to realize efficiency in our operations. From what I have seen so far, no opportunity is ever taken to realize efficiency and cost savings, and that cost savings seems like a foreign concept to the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask the Minister questions at the appropriate time. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened to the budget address with a lot of interest. The pipeline hearings are starting in Inuvik and even Mr. Harper said that we should be beneficiaries of our resources. I happen to agree with him. I think we should hold his feet to the fire over this one. I like the tone that this government is finally starting to take and be a little more aggressive in going after what is rightfully ours. There are many things in the address that I agree with. The \$270 million that is going out of the Territories every year, how much of that are we getting? I don't think we are getting anything. These are our resources. I find that just unfair; really unfair.

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

**MR. MCLEOD:** I like the tone that this government has taken. I think they should be more aggressive. I think we have to go after these people and get what is rightfully ours, because he did say that we should be our own beneficiaries.

He also asked if we should invest millions in transportation infrastructure. I say yes we should invest in a highway down the Mackenzie Valley. We should go right up to Tuk. We have to...

---Applause

We have to connect the whole NWT by road. Hopefully that will drive some of the prices down. I would be more than happy to back the Minister up in Cabinet on anything that they might want to try and do. I would be proud to be a Member of a Legislature that finally gets what is rightfully ours from Ottawa.

---Applause

That resource revenue royalty sharing plus a highway down the Mackenzie I think would be a good legacy for all of us in here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### **Member's Statement On Reflections On Budget Address**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to make some comments on the budget delivered today. Mr. Speaker, in some ways, I, too, feel like it is a Groundhog Day budget. There is not really that much new in there, although I do support the highway idea all the way to Tuk.

---Applause

But there is really not much in there that we have not heard before. Most of the light of the budget was on the federal government. I don't think I have ever seen a budget where about half of the print speaks to that. Mr. Speaker, I, too, sincerely hope that the new Prime Minister Harper will deliver for the North. I know we make a great deal of the fact that he mentioned us by name in his first speech. I think that speaks more to how neglected we feel than what we know right now about how much importance he will put in that, especially when, as the days and weeks go by, where his agenda will not be...I am hoping that his agenda will not be hijacked by the big vote rich provinces of Ontario and Quebec and all the other provincial and territorial Premiers and Finance Ministers that I am sure are dreaming right now about what addressing fiscal imbalance means to their coffers. I, too, share the optimism. If the change was what was required, we certainly have a change in many areas. I hope that a lot of goodwill comes out of that.

Another thing I want to briefly mention, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the devil really is in the detail, especially in regards to this budget because there was very little details given about the social spending and what kind of priorities that the government will put in, especially in the areas of kindergarten funding or day care funding or even the housing issues. I know we are going to have a rigorous debate on that. I hope that we don't debate it on small town versus big towns, but that we will talk about the fact that even if we got every dollar of the \$270 million resource revenue into our coffers, that's still only a quarter

of the total budget. We have our own budget to manage and we have our own priorities to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that I really noticed out of the budget is the Minister stating that he wants to be bold. He came into our committee meetings saying that he was going to get aggressive. I am looking at him going, what are you waiting for? We are waiting two years; more than half into the mandate. I give him permission to be aggressive. I want to see him in the headline in the national and territorial media every day. Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to complete my sentence?

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister of Finance is a man of his own word. When he says he is going to get aggressive, I know he is going to get aggressive. We are with him. I am envisioning him being the Incredible Hulk coming out of his shirt, going out there and taking on Mr. Harper and letting him know what we need. So I look forward to seeing his work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

#### **Member's Statement On Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To pick up on one of my colleague's points, it is Groundhog Day. It is finally time that we have seen that our little gopher over there isn't afraid of his shadow. I am saying kudos to the guy who actually says he wants to stand up to the Government of Canada. So, finally, let's see if this tough talk actually emerges to anything but sugarplums in dreams. This statement says, like many other statements, oh, let's talk about the dreams of hydro. Let's put the initiatives of hydro ahead of children. I didn't hear any statement saying that children are number one. It is just hydro. Wait a minute. Resource revenue sharing agreement. Again, where are our cultural and arts points? They don't stand out here at all, Mr. Speaker. We don't have strong, bold statements about what we are going to do to take care of our disabled people. Those are strong and bold statements, I think, when we say we are going to take care of every darn one. We are going to make sure that their safety nets are there to protect them when they need them, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on page 6, we talk about healthy choices in our schools, but we don't talk about getting rid of the vending machines in those schools. We don't talk about making sure that those chocolate bars are out. With only going halfway on that issue, it is like holding an AA meeting in a bar, for goodness sake, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

All I can say is that this budget statement, I applaud the Minister for saying that he is finally going to get tough.

But this government is coasting out of here. We are less than a year-and-a-half away from finishing. Or do we really think we are going to wrap up a resource revenue sharing agreement, drop the corporate tax and it is all going to save our skins? I think we need to worry about number one, our people here. What are we doing again for the disabled community, our arts community? Do we offer strict lip service for those organizations and for those people? I think it is important and critical to make sure that we show that we care about those areas every single day. This is a policy statement for the next year. I don't see any mention of them. So we are missing low income earners, children, disabled, arts community and our culture. I think those are the values of the Northwest Territories. I think they were missed this time. I think the Minister did a good job, but I think we fell short of where we should really be focusing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** What is your point of order, Mrs. Groenewegen?

#### Point Of Order

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I think that Mr. Hawkin's statement was unparliamentary. It was disrespectful. I do not think he should refer to our Finance Minister as a little gopher. I don't want to draw attention to it, but I think it just decreased the stature of our Assembly by those words. I would like him to retract them. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mrs. Groenewegen, could you clarify for the House what rule you were raising a point of order under? Unparliamentary language?

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under Rule 23(l), speaks disrespectfully and it says, of the Assembly or any Member. I consider those comments to have been disrespectful. Thank you.

#### Speaker's Ruling

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Member has raised on a point of order under Rule 23, unparliamentary and disrespectful language in the House, and has asked the Member to withdraw the remarks. The Chair is of the opinion that the language in the House is not to be disrespectful towards other Members. I will support Mrs. Groenewegen's request to have the remark withdrawn. Does the Member for Yellowknife Centre wish to withdraw the remarks? Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I couldn't hear you, Mr. Speaker, but I will just assume you are supporting Mrs. Groenewegen in this regard. For sake of ease, I will withdraw them. The only intent was to reference Groundhog's Day and the groundhog is afraid of their shadow. So, if Mr. Roland and anyone in his family were concerned by the remarks, they were not meant to be intended in any negative way. In that regard, I will withdraw them just for the sake of moving on.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Chair will consider the remarks withdrawn from the record. Item 5, reports of standing

and special committees. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

#### ITEM 7: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to draw your attention in the gallery today to a constituent of mine, Roy Courtoreille who is regional vice-president of the UNW. He is here today, along with a number of his colleagues on the executive for the UNW. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some of my constituents who are here today with the UNW: Wendy Carpenter, Allison Barr, and Barb Wyness.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the pleasure of recognizing some folks from the constituency. Some are here for the budget address. Jeff O'Keefe, Margaret Imrie, Alma McDonald and Steve Lafferty from the college. As well, we have two stalwart members of the UNW executive from Fort Smith, Mr. Brad Brake, second vice-president; and Paul McAdams, regional vice-president. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for the Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome and recognize the mayor of Enterprise, Mrs. Winnie Cadieux along with councillor Amy Mercredi from Enterprise. Also with us is Robert Lamalice, a councillor from the K'atloodèche band council. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Bell.

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also recognize the entire UNW executive, but specifically my constituent Gayla Wick who is first vice-president of the UNW, and also Sheila Laity who is regional vice-president for the North Great Slave region of the UNW and, interestingly enough, also enrolled in the Nurse Practitioner Program at Aurora College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. My apologies; the Member for Yellowknife South. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize a constituent of mine, Mr. Donnie Roberts, who is also a regional vice-president of the UNW in Fort McPherson. I would like to welcome you, Donnie.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Tyson Pertschy who was employed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Parks Canada. Mr. Pertschy is presently a member of a joint review panel, but, more importantly, he is my nephew. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Again, I want to recognize my mother in the gallery as a Native Women's Association of the NWT. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Along with my other colleagues, Mr. Speaker, a welcome to the full executive of the Union of Northern Workers and to my constituent, Todd Parsons, the president of the UNW. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to recognize a constituent from Fort Simpson, Candy Brown, our regional vice-president for the Deh Cho region. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a former constituent in the Sahtu, Mr. Donnie Roberts who is now in the Gwich'in area, former social worker in our region. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure today to introduce in the

gallery my wife and daughter. My wife, Shawna, and my daughter, Courtney.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anybody in the gallery today, welcome to the House. It is always a pleasure to have an audience.

Orders of the day. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### ITEM 8: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 318-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Governments In Resource Revenue And Devolution Negotiations

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance today in follow-up to his budget address. Mr. Speaker, whenever we talk about the fiscal situation in our government, whenever we talk about resource revenue sharing, we talk about royalties and devolution. As a territorial government, this can never be done in the absence of talking about the aspirations and the cooperation of aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories, as well. I know that the budget address was somewhat abbreviated today, but I noticed almost right away -- and I actually mentioned to my colleague here -- that there was only, I think, one reference to aboriginal governments in the entire budget address, right towards the very end. To that subject, Mr. Speaker, I also found it interesting that, during the election campaign, some of the aboriginal leaders were quite shocked to hear from our outgoing MP that we were only three days away from a devolution and resource revenue sharing agreement when the Liberal government fell. Some of the aboriginal leaders were quite surprised by that because they didn't realize we were to that distance, which goes to the point that we cannot make progress on this file without their cooperation. I would like to know what the status is of creating a unified voice and a unified position so that when we do take our message to Ottawa, that we do have a credible message in the fact that it represents not only this public government but for aboriginal governments, as well. Thank you.

---Applause

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

##### Return To Question 318-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Governments In Resource Revenue And Devolution Negotiations

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the financial front, our negotiations have been working with the Aboriginal Summit and leaders across the Territories. We continue to do that. For the specific details of where certain files are sitting, I would have to have the Premier try to provide some information there. But on the front overall, our stance is still the same. We have to work together in the Northwest Territories with our partners in the North being aboriginal governments and organizations, to come up with a common message so that we can, in fact, show that we are unified in the Northwest Territories with our approach. There is a lot of work going on in the areas and much work yet to be done,

as I pointed out. From the financial arrangements, the discussions with Finance Canada to our discussions for my shop within Finance here in the Northwest Territories, it has been very difficult to get them pulled into the discussions about how we would see resource revenue sharing.

We have had a lot of discussions with groups and aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories, but, unfortunately, in Ottawa, on the Finance Canada front, we haven't had a whole lot of engagement. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 318-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Governments In Resource Revenue And Devolution Negotiations**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What are the plans that are on the agenda at this time on the part of this government to ensure that, when we do go, that deal that we want to make is not going to be anything less than what the aboriginal governments are looking for as well, and, therefore, not derailed at some future time because we did not have buy in? What's the agenda? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 318-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Governments In Resource Revenue And Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we've been doing, building on the discussions we've had to date, is as a result of the election, the direction we're going, putting out our budget, the Premier is meeting with the regional leaders across the North to discuss some of the strategies we may engage to put our issues at the forefront for the new federal government. That is the latest situation we're facing and working towards. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 318-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Governments In Resource Revenue And Devolution Negotiations**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Finance Minister concur that we cannot negotiate devolution and resource revenue sharing alone, as a stand-alone government, and tell me what is in our process right now that guarantees or confirms to us that the participation of aboriginal governments is there? When he goes to Ottawa, is he going to take somebody who represents the Aboriginal Summit, who speaks for the aboriginal governments as well as for this government? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 318-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Governments In Resource Revenue And Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the relationship we have built to this date with the aboriginal governments and groups across the North has been a positive one and growing, and I think with the spirit and intent of that in place, the Premier is having his discussions with the leaders about where we need to go, the next steps that need to be taken. So they're involved. We feel they're important to the development of the Northwest Territories as we look further down the road to self-government agreements that come in place and are enacted. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 318-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Governments In Resource Revenue And Devolution Negotiations**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the end that we want to see progress on this file, can we do more? Is there something new or different? Is there anything new we can add to the process that will assure success on this area? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 318-15(4): Inclusion Of Aboriginal Governments In Resource Revenue And Devolution Negotiations**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think there are a number of avenues that have opened up to us through the election process that we've just gone through across Canada with the Prime Minister-designate making it very clear that the fiscal imbalance issue needs to be direct -- repaired, I guess, is a simple way of putting it -- in fact, as well, in saying that he sees us in the North as being the ones that gain from the development of the North. So I think those are areas we need to work together on from the North and come up with a unified message, and I'm sure the Premier, as he meets with the regional leaders across the North, will be able to come up with an approach that is satisfactory. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 319-15(4): Aboriginal Languages And Cultural Program**

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

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement earlier, I spoke about the government making aboriginal languages its priority. I commended the ECE on its effort to revive the ALCIP program. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, though, what kind of commitment has been made to fund and support this essential program? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Return To Question 319-15(4): Aboriginal Languages And Cultural Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, this program is not funded as a base program, but is offered in partnership with the DECs across the Northwest Territories, so that they are paying for the delivery of the course when it's delivered in the regions. There has been some discussion about the need to consider whether or not this should be one of the base programs, particularly when in the revised curriculum it becomes a two-year program. We are considering that, but have not in this budget included the funds for the college to offer that as a base-funded program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 319-15(4): Aboriginal Languages And Cultural Program**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the ALCIP program is funded with official language money provided by the federal government. Is the Minister willing to truly make the aboriginal language and culture its priority and commit to manage this money? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 319-15(4): Aboriginal Languages And Cultural Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we are taking a look at whether or not it would be useful to offer this program as a base-funded program through the college. We will have to work with the college after the curriculum is completed. As things stand right now, it is not a two-year program, but the new curriculum should turn it into a two-year program. Once that's done, we can discuss with the college what it would take to ensure that this could be a base-funded program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 319-15(4): Aboriginal Languages And Cultural Program**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister highlighted the new curriculum for the program, so I'd like to ask the Minister about the ALCIP programs being administered through various school boards; a difficult task, considering their mandate lies elsewhere. Can the Minister tell this Assembly what the college's responsibility will be in the delivery of the new and revised ALCIP program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 319-15(4): Aboriginal Languages And Cultural Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ALCIP program is a college program right now. It's not administered by schools. The schools purchase the delivery of the program from the college, so they pay for the delivery. But the program itself is already a college program. What we're talking about, though, is increasing

the requirements of the program to a full two-year diploma-type course that would, we hope, then be offered as a base-funded program by the college.

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

**Supplementary To Question 319-15(4): Aboriginal Languages And Cultural Program**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As this is one of the top priorities for the communities, I just have a final question for the Minister. Can the Minister assure this Assembly that the ALCIP program will hold the same kind of validity as any other teaching program, and given its place in the only post-secondary institution at Aurora College, as well as proper accreditation recognizing its importance to the education of our future generations? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 319-15(4): Aboriginal Languages And Cultural Program**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We already consider this to be an important program. It is being used now to ensure that aboriginal language and culture instructors in the school are moved into the UNW funding or salary brackets already. So it is being used to ensure that our staff get the recognition that they should for their qualifications for teaching these important subjects.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Question 320-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance and they relate to the introduction of the budget, the 2006-2007 budget. I'm trying to focus on one area, Mr. Speaker, and that's the area of long-term debt. As the Minister described, one of our priority initiatives with Ottawa is to get a new fiscal financing deal, and part of that is a modernized way of handling our debt. But we need to work with what we know right now, which is that \$300 million limit, Mr. Speaker. With the forecast that is provided in the budget document, we see that we are going to be pushing our debt limit to about three-quarters of our credit line this year, Mr. Speaker. It'll be almost totally used up by the end of the coming fiscal year if we don't turn this around. So my question was, what is our plan for managing this medium-term debt situation, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 320-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the debt situation that we face is a serious one and a critical one for the Northwest Territories. It's an issue that we've raised before. The reason why we developed our fiscal responsibility policy is to show our counterparts in Ottawa, with federal Finance, that we can deal with the issues given the right tools. So we need to continue to work with the federal government and push it, and push hard, to have them remove that debt limit

because, ultimately, when you look at what's before us, the repayment of the 2002 corporate tax overpayment from the federal government is going to push us very close to the debt limit that we are facing through the federal government. It's a fairly straightforward deal, as we see it. We've shown that we can live with what we have, and need the federal government to recognize it has to be changed. If the federal government is not willing to change that, then trying to invest in the future and infrastructure and enhancing our programs, dealing with development that's already happening around us, we won't be able to put the necessary resources to it. We'll instead have to continue to work with a shrinking budget as things around us continue to, I guess, boom. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 320-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for that context, but we're looking to a situation where we may be handing off to the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, after the election in the fall of 2007, a situation where there will be no credit line, a big debt or cost of servicing that debt, and in fact the fiscal situation they inherit for the coming year will be that they're over \$460 million in debt. Way over the line. So I guess let's ask this another way. Is there a plan B? How can we avoid passing on this kind of a gloomy situation? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 320-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think our goal, first and foremost, is to have the federal government remove the debt limit that they have placed on us. That would be the first goal and we would have to work hard to achieve that. We have one year to make that happen, because we'll still be in government and still be in control of the purse strings as we start into the year 2007. As things sit right now, if we look that far down the road, we'll have no room for a borrowing limit at that point. So we have to make some decisions and this is what's going to change our approach, is how aggressively are we going to pursue the federal government to have that recognized and changed that they have to remove that debt limit. Because we have the fiscal responsibility policy in place and we can manage with the revenues that will come in to invest in the things that are critical for the Northwest Territories. Going beyond that and saying that the picture doesn't change and to live within the means that we have there will be a significant change in our fiscal strategy, and we'll have to sit down as to what we see the passing off to the next Assembly. So it's something we have to do, is focus on the federal government, get the debt limit removed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu. Sorry; the honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**Question 321-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today, after having listened to the Premier

take on Mr. Braden yesterday, I think I'm going to keep my questions to the Finance Minister today.

---Laughter

I learned something yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

A touchy subject, and that is the government's participation in the Mackenzie gas project. I know the Finance Minister spoke of the project on page 6 of his budget address today and I wanted to ask him a few specific questions on one sentence in particular, Mr. Speaker. That sentence was, "We will participate fully and actively in the Mackenzie gas project to ensure that if the project proceeds, the needs and concerns of our residents will be addressed." With the proposed \$500 million socio-economic fund that was announced and is pending, it's for the communities along the pipeline route. I'm just wondering if the Finance Minister can let me know, and the rest of the residents in the Northwest Territories, how the Government of the Northwest Territories proposes to address the needs and concerns of all the residents of the Northwest Territories? We call ourselves a public government. How are we going to address all the needs in all the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 321-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we proceed the next few weeks through the budget process, we'll be able to show how already the money that we received from Canada and our own sources, that we are spending it across the board to deal with all individuals in the Northwest Territories. More importantly, on the work that's going ahead now on the Mackenzie gas project, our involvement from the broad perspective of all the residents of the Northwest Territories is going to go through our representations of the JRP, or Joint Review Panel, as well as NEB, the National Energy Board, and what we feel we can achieve through a socio-economic agreement with the proponent to the project. That's going to be where we will look at all pieces and how we fit from the Northwest Territories in taking advantage of this type of development. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 321-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to state, for the record, that I am a big proponent of the Mackenzie gas project and I wish the communities well along the pipeline route that are hopefully going to be able to access this \$500 million socio-economic fund. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that 80 percent, 75 to 80 percent of our residents live in communities that aren't going to be able to access any of this \$500 million. I want to ask the Minister of Finance what evidence there is that the Government of the Northwest Territories has the wherewithal and the ability to address socio-economic concerns in a community like Yellowknife, in a community like Hay River, or in a

community like Fort Smith. What evidence is there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 321-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think again as we go through the budget process and lay out the details of that budget in each department, we'll be able to show what we can deal with with the tools we have right now. That is one of our concerns, we need more resources to be able to deal with those things and ultimately that will be through a better fiscal arrangement with Ottawa and a royalty revenue sharing agreement that would see a net fiscal benefit to the Northwest Territories, which then we can take those funds and share with the rest of the people in the territory. If this project is to proceed, the corporate tax, the payroll tax, and the property taxes from that development will come to this government and we'll be able to, through that process, distribute it through all parts of the territory. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 322-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask some questions on the budget to the Minister of Finance as well. It's in regards to the tax rate, corporate tax rate reduction that he's announcing in the budget, Mr. Speaker. One of the perverse elements of our funding formula with the federal government is that when we have windfalls in our corporate tax revenue, we get penalized. The Minister of Finance has sat with me in committees where we've been dealing with this for the last four or five years. We also know, and those in the know, and one of the good things today about having a reception is that we have very well-educated people among our public telling us all sorts of things and the ideas for questions. Too bad we don't have them every day. But anyway, one of the questions is with respect to extra money we hope to get by reducing the corporate tax rate and whether or not most of it, if not all of it, will be taken back by the federal government by their claw-back arrangement. I believe the Minister has told us about how this might work differently and I'm wondering if the Minister could explain that for us for the benefit of the public. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 322-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess we should provide a little bit of background because as we sat down initially as Members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, our fiscal picture was significantly different, as well as our arrangement with Ottawa on the formula financing, which had attached to it the tax effort adjustment factor. In that case, we would be penalized. As we look at transfer payments across Canada, there's a measurement done on tax across jurisdictions. We were deemed to not be taxing our residents and businesses comparable to the rest of Canada in some areas. If we had set a low tax rate, we

would take a penalty on any income and transfer payments from Ottawa. Since then, Mr. Speaker, the feel that we have put together our fiscal strategy on has changed significantly. Ottawa has put that all in abeyance. An expert panel has been established and a three-year agreement with the potential for expansion to future years was put in place. What happens in this case, and what we are feeling the effects of in this fiscal year, is the fact that if we were to gain more money in revenues, we wouldn't be able to keep 100 percent of it. If we lose revenues, we lose 100 percent. That's what we found ourselves in, and I had to make an announcement in October that our corporate income tax revenue had dropped because we are now under this new fiscal arrangement that allows us to take all the risk or all the rewards. Unfortunately, because of our corporate tax rate, we took the risk and we've lost out on that end.

So we've had to look at our fiscal picture and say in this environment we are operating now, it is better to start being competitive with other jurisdictions and we will be able to keep, in the interim, all of the revenue that's filed in the North. Part of our problem is because our rate was so much higher than our neighbours to the South, that large companies were starting to look at moving tax filings to other jurisdictions. We all know when our revenues drop, so we had to take some decisive action in some area and move to be competitive.

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

**Supplementary To Question 322-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of questions that arise out of that answer. The first thing might be why didn't we know about this arrangement, but I am not going to ask that question. The Minister mentioned that the regime is in abeyance for the three years. I think that's the time limit he mentioned. Could the Minister assure us that the abeyance is something that he knows to be permanent in that we are not going to be told a year or two later that we made a mistake? It was in abeyance temporarily, but you are going to have to pay back whatever you have gained. What kind of assurance can the Minister give that he knows, with certainty, that we can do this now without any concern for penalty in the years to come? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 322-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that in the upcoming fiscal year, the year we've announced, July 1<sup>st</sup>, in that fiscal year, it is in abeyance. It's a three-year agreement that could go to five years, as some of the indications that we've received. Ultimately, if a new arrangement is made with Ottawa and federal Finance about the fiscal arrangements in place or that will be put in place as a result of the expert panel report and the Council of Federation work, we'll have some discussions about that risk and reward sides. Right now it is punitive. If it were to come back with the existing arrangement, we would then have to look again at our fiscal strategy and decide if we are going to still proceed to try to win on the other side of having more revenues filed in the North. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 322-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am no tax expert, but just the very topic of this could risk us losing everybody. Minister Floyd is very sufficient in this area. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask why, then, the Minister mentioned that we get to keep 100 percent risk and 100 percent reward, the decision on the 11.5 percent? Why don't we go down lower? Where is the formula that tells him that this is the best number to be at in order to encourage or at least not lose the corporate tax filings that we have lost? I am sure there is a consideration for him to make about any penalty about what we might get if we go too out of sight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 322-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, the message today being sent to the companies doing business in the Northwest Territories is, don't shift your payments out of our jurisdictions. Keep them in the Northwest Territories and continue to look at filing in the Northwest Territories for those companies who do business in the North. The tax arrangements in Canada allow flexibility for where they can file their income. Ultimately the message today is being sent to companies in the Northwest Territories to file their tax in the Northwest Territories because we will be as competitive with our southern neighbours and that will be, at this time, Alberta having the lowest corporate tax rate. We will match them.

The other side of the equation we will have to sit down and review after we get some indication from federal Finance as to what portions of the panel report they will adopt. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 322-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on page 8, in talking about revenue from corporate income tax, the Minister stated that the GNWT received \$3.5 million. I am assuming that that constitutes rather a lower amount than what was expected, hence the change in corporate tax rate. So could the Minister indicate what he's projected to have lost by the high rate prior to the reduction? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 322-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I announced back in our last sitting, the corporate tax situation we faced, we went from projecting a surplus of about \$40 million down to where we are identifying now...In fact, at one time we predicted we would go into a slight deficit position. But because of adjusting our budget, we've managed to stay out of that

area. But the immediate impact of our higher tax rates and the fiscal arrangements we have in Ottawa right now is that companies have started to move their file to other jurisdictions. In fact, as well, our estimates of companies paying some new tax in the North did not occur. I announced back in October that we were hit by almost, when you look at the combination of past companies refiling against profits to losses, and then other companies filing out of the North, we were hit by almost \$30 million to the negative. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 323-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also for Minister Floyd Roland on the budget address. On page 8 and 9, he listed four key points in terms of the second condition necessary to achieve...(inaudible)...in the Northwest Territories. I wanted to ask for some clarification. In his address, he talked about the reports by the expert panel and we are in the hands of the federal government in terms of how we control the finances we are going to have. How will the Minister make our position in the Government of the Northwest Territories well known to the federal government in terms of having them listen and pay attention to our position? How will he do it?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Roland.

**Return To Question 323-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess there are all types of avenues one can consider to the point of taking our tents and setting them up on the front lawns of Parliament, but, more realistically, what we need to do and we have been doing, but we are going to have to enhance it more, is how we have got the message out there. We have a business case. We believe our business case is an adequate one and it's clear that we have delivered the message to Ottawa about our fiscal situation in the Northwest Territories in the unique situations we encounter being this far north and the conditions that we live in. We need to look at our strategies of how we have tried to do it. We have tried to do it within an environment being much more cooperative, working with the existing tools we had in place and trying to get them to understand our position. Well, we are going to have to take this up a notch. We are going to have to work with our other jurisdictions, with the provinces and territories and have them look at our situation in the business case and support us as we go to Ottawa. They have supported us on a number of fronts in the past and I believe a lot of them understand our positioning.

Ultimately, as well, we can say as much as we want on our own from the Northwest Territories, but if we don't get the rest of Canada -- the experts, as Ottawa would call them -- echoing our concerns and saying that our numbers are adequate and legitimate, then it's a difficult battle. So what we need to do is take a different approach in how we get that message to Ottawa; a unified one from the Northwest Territories, but now we are going to have to reach outside of the envelope we normally operate with and start getting the message down in Ottawa, not only

from northerners but from those in Ottawa as well. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 323-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I support the Minister in terms of his process to getting the attention of the federal Minister or the federal government. However, business case after business case, doing things very politely and that's good. Northerners, that what we tend to do. I think enough is enough and we can get the attention of the federal government that needs to pay attention. So I think there has to be some more radical steps considered in terms of getting the attention of Ottawa. So in that sense, I want to ask the Minister how or what type of measures is he going to use in terms of his strategy in terms of pressing for immediate action? We've got two years left in this government, so are we going to put pressure on the government to force some immediate action? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 323-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before we get to radical solutions or options that may be out there, there's a new government in Ottawa. We have to take a different stance, we have to get the message to them, and I'm looking for the opportunity I get to sit down with the new Finance Minister to see if he thinks the arguments, the business case that we put forward is adequate or not adequate to go with what we're asking for. That will then entail what we'll need to do as a jurisdiction. But ultimately, the message that is initially sent out about fiscal imbalance is a good one. Hopefully with the new Finance Minister in place, we'll be able to sit down and have a good discussion and hopefully walk away from that with some positive results in the very near future. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 323-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's time, enough is enough. We have a new government. Some of the old bureaucrats are still in Ottawa. You can change the face in the kitchen table here, but you still have the same cooks brewing up the same kind of recipe for provinces and territories. So I think this government's got to come up with a backup plan. You know, we have to hope the federal government will listen to us, and hope that we...We need a backup plan. We need to get serious and get really down to the brass knuckles of...Our resources are leaving us everyday; millions and millions of dollars. We're asking for things that are being legal. So I want to ask again, does the Minister have a backup plan if things don't go...(inaudible)...as well as we think. What is the backup plan for us to take charge of our own destiny? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 323-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member has referenced cooking and so on and so forth. I guess one could say there's a new chef in the kitchen now when it comes to the new government in place. We need to get an understanding from where they may come from initially. From that, we will know how much we'll have to push and how much harder.

Mr. Speaker, clearly, as Minister of Finance for the Northwest Territories, and I look down in our fiscal forecast, if we do not get the changes that were requested, and ultimately those changes can be made and should be made in Ottawa because they have that authority and the ability. If we do not get that changed in a way that is on a cooperative approach, at some point, as Finance Minister, I end up ultimately responsible for our fiscal situation. If we, for example, go beyond the borrowing limit that is being imposed on us, those are some of the scenarios I have to face and how we would approach that. So, Mr. Speaker, first goal is, number one, let's get in the door with the new Finance Minister, see where he's coming from and see if he's willing to listen to our arguments on the political front. Never mind the briefings he may get from his new staff or the staff that is already there. Ultimately we need to sit down with him on the political front, get an understanding of where he may stand or she may stand. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 323-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there may be a new chef in the kitchen, but the same old recipe is being cooked up and it's just a different means of cooking up that recipe. I want to ask the Finance Minister in terms of his opening address and on one of the points, his last point was point four in terms of the arbitrating of the \$300 million borrowing limit. Our government stated saying we need a territorial political autonomy. How do we get that? You know, Alberta won't stand for that. Other governments won't stand for it. You know, the Territories shouldn't stand for it. So how do we get territorial political autonomy and not be beggars in our own land in terms of getting some of these resources that are meant to stay in the North and to provide programs and services for our people? So what messages can we give to the government in terms of receiving that statement? Thank you.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Right on.

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

**Further Return To Question 323-15(4): Reflections On Budget Address**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've not only in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon and provinces across Canada have raised the issue of fiscal imbalance with Ottawa on a regular basis; in fact, to the point where Finance Ministers have pushed on it so that the Premiers have now become involved and directed through the Council of the Federation that another panel be established. The federal

government has recognized it by establishing an expert panel. We need to see what their reports will come out as, and then what will the federal government do with those reports, what will they enact as some of the recommendations that may come out of it. I believe that we've presented our arguments on a solid basis, and I believe that both panels will endorse a number of the things that we've raised and it will be from that point on what our relationship will be with the new federal finance. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

**Question 324-15(4): RCMP Presence In Sachs Harbour**

**MR. POKIAK:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I spoke about the RCMP presence in Sachs Harbour. Mr. Speaker, I spoke about this on a couple of occasions, and to date we still haven't heard any results from the Department of Justice. I understand that in October when I raised the issue up with the Minister of Justice, he was supposed to form a committee with the RCMP and the justice to look at our communities without an RCMP presence. So I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice, can he give me an update in regards to what has been done today and what will be happening in the next couple of months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 324-15(4): RCMP Presence In Sachs Harbour**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is right; we established a joint working group between my officials -- Department of Justice -- and the RCMP to look into various options that would increase police presence in our smaller communities. There are 13 communities in the NWT without RCMP detachments and it's a concern for us. So we started to study the problem and we've used the policing strategic consultations with communities to do this work, regional level consultations. They will be coming forward with some recommendations. We have started to address some issues on a community-by-community basis. I understand in Tsiigehtchic we're working with the housing department to hopefully provide a residence for RCMP so that they might be able to stay overnight. Many of the problems that occur in our communities are not nine to five, Mr. Speaker, obviously. So we're looking to address some of those issues. I am very well aware of the concerns in Sachs. They are probably of the highest priority in the NWT. All consultations aside, the Member asked if I need a working group to recognize that there are problems here. My answer is no. We do acknowledge that there is a real concern in Sachs Harbour. It's one that I look to address immediately and as soon as there's a new public safety Minister in Ottawa, it will be the first thing that I sit down to bring to his attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 324-15(4): RCMP Presence In Sachs Harbour**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for the information. In regard to the study on the problems that you've talked about and coming out with recommendations, how soon with that be? For your information, the RCMP do have a building in Sachs Harbour that's usable; they do have barracks there that's been shut down for a number of years, but I found out when I was down there that it can be used very easily. So when can the Minister ensure the people of Sachs that they will get some safety and protection that they require? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 324-15(4): RCMP Presence In Sachs Harbour**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work that's underway is looking at the frequency of patrols, it's talking with the communities about how we have longer stays in those communities, how we might implement community policing crime prevention initiatives, and one of the things we have to do is assess our assets on the ground. In Sachs, we have to ensure that those structures are still up to code, or could be brought up to code quickly. But, Mr. Speaker, it is the federal government that provides the capital dollars. We take care of 70 percent of the O and M, but we would have to get any improvements into the federal capital plan and that will take some doing and some lobbying. But I'm prepared to take that up immediately. I know that we need to look at coverage in smaller communities, but I'm very concerned about the remoteness of Sachs Harbour and the ability of us to respond quickly and ensure the safety and security of those residents. So I want to assure the Member this is of highest priority for me. I will address it with the federal Minister. I want to improve the police presence in Sachs. If we can get a detachment in Sachs and the federal government will commit those dollars, that's my first option and my first priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Question 325-15(4): Bison Problems In Fort Liard And Nahanni Butte**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of ENR just following up on the concerns of Fort Liard constituents with regard to their buffalo problems they've been having, as well as in Nahanni Butte. The last time we exchanged topic ground on this, Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated it was a free-roaming herd and they were going to initiate some type of management plan, and that's what the community has been looking for, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask the Minister if and when consideration of this plan will be done for these communities. Mahsi.

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

**Return To Question 325-15(4): Bison Problems In Fort Liard And Nahanni Butte**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the work on the plan is underway. We're trying to address a number of species, including barren land caribou, the woodland caribou, as well as the bison in its various herds. I anticipate that before spring we should have a document that would be ready to go. Prior to that, we'll be able to circulate some drafts. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 325-15(4): Bison Problems In Fort Liard And Nahanni Butte**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That's what the community is looking for; is what actually is the ministry going to be doing about this herd. There are about 350 animals. Has the department done any consultation in the communities of Nahanni Butte and Fort Liard with respect to their management plan? Thanks.

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

**Further Return To Question 325-15(4): Bison Problems In Fort Liard And Nahanni Butte**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're working on the document, and part of the plan when we have something of substance to take forward is we will do the consultation with the Member and the communities to ensure that we're on the right track and that we maintain a collaborative approach. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 325-15(4): Bison Problems In Fort Liard And Nahanni Butte**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that we're moving with this particular initiative, however, spring and summer is coming and the big concern for the constituents is that the free-roaming herds are digging up their gardens and ruining trees in the communities on their properties. Has the department looked at exactly what will they be doing in the meantime, particularly this coming spring? Thanks.

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

**Further Return To Question 325-15(4): Bison Problems In Fort Liard And Nahanni Butte**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're aware of some of the concerns in Liard, as the Premier has brought the issue back from one of his trips there. It's similar concerns that have been raised in Providence, with the animals in the communities destroying property and such. We're looking at some options such as possibly having to destroy a number of the animals to get them out of the community, as well as other ways to try to keep them away. So we're looking at some of those options, keeping in mind that these bison are, I believe, in danger and we have to be

careful how we proceed within the parameters of the regulations and policies. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 325-15(4): Bison Problems In Fort Liard And Nahanni Butte**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I like that response from the Minister, because the buffalo concern and the damage is very serious in these communities and I'm sure they'll be looking forward to the establishment of a buffalo bill for the management of these buffalos there, Mr. Speaker. No questions there, Mr. Speaker. Thanks.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Question 326-15(4): New Driver's Licence Design**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the last few years I've been raising the issue of the driver's licence renewals as well as a brand-new driver's licence. I'd like to ask a question to the Minister of Transportation. When can we expect any updates on this matter, or the actual brand-new drivers' licences that he promised in the last budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 326-15(4): New Driver's Licence Design**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we had committed, during the last session, that we would have a new driver's licence designed and out in the fiscal year 2006. We still stand by that. We, right now, are reviewing some of the samples that we're putting together, and we have a contractor or a consultant on stream that is working with us to do that, and we have the equipment that will allow us to start producing these drivers' licences once we finalize some of the detail on it. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 326-15(4): New Driver's Licence Design**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister could elaborate a little further, does he mean this fiscal year of the '05-06 budget? Which fiscal year is he referring to that we'll get the brand-new driver's licence cards out there? As well, I didn't quite get a clear answer on will they be doing the renewal notices as he has promised in the past? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 326-15(4): New Driver's Licence Design**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, yes, the fiscal year I was referring to is 2006, the upcoming 2006-2007 fiscal year.

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

**Supplementary To Question 326-15(4): New Driver's Licence Design**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as the renewal notice, would the Minister provide some clarity on that, whether that will become the new standard practice of the Department of Transportation? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 326-15(4): New Driver's Licence Design**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that's aside from the driver's licence issuance, but the issue of having the driver's licence renewals flagged if there's any outstanding traffic violations to the client is something we're still working on. We still have some detail to work out with Justice, but we are still sticking to our targets of having something maybe by this summer. We don't have any firm dates. We don't know when we'll be able to deal with the issue that we're working on right now, and that's the issue of being able to keep the information confidential and how to flag the information and transfer it from Justice over to our road licensing program. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 326-15(4): New Driver's Licence Design**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've said in this House that I actually have a class 4 driver's licence and I do get a notice every five years about updating my medical. I was just kind of looking for a yes or no; we will do the notice with the brand-new driver's licence. The Minister brought it up himself; is he going to attach tickets to the renewal of drivers' licences? He sort of brought that up himself, so is that part of the new process that he's developing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 326-15(4): New Driver's Licence Design**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we don't have the final detail of how the notification process will work if you have unpaid traffic violations or unpaid fines. We're expecting that if you go in to renew your driver's licence there will be a flagging on your file that will allow the officer to indicate to you that you have a violation or an unpaid fine. You would then have to go over to and clear up that fine with the Justice people. We don't have it laid out right now, but we're not expecting the Department of Transportation to be collecting fines and to be clearing up some unpaid traffic violations. So there would be something along those lines. We haven't finalized it yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member from the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 327-15(4): Sahtu Socio-Economic Conference**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last weekend we had a Sahtu/Tlicho/Dehcho economic conference in Tulita. Mr. Handley and Mr. Bell, along with MLA Jackson attended. I wanted to ask the Minister of ITI, Mr. Brendan Bell, the burning question in terms of after this conference in terms of coordinating the communities and the regions in terms of preparing for the impacts, the social issues that will be forthcoming should the pipeline come in this present time frame. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 327-15(4): Sahtu Socio-Economic Conference**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This consultation is part of a broader consultation we've been conducting up and down the valley on socio-economic impacts, understanding concerns of people in the community and certainly trying to better understand their aspirations in terms of what they see this pipeline and project more broadly meaning for them. I think it was a very good conference. I want to applaud the Member for setting out to organize this almost by himself initially. He managed to get funding from DIAND, funding from our government. We were happy to participate, but he took the step, Mr. Speaker, and went beyond just a community workshop or even a regional workshop, as he's indicated. He invited those constituents from the Dehcho as well, a group, and also, importantly, a group from the Tlicho region, and MLA Jackson Lafferty did attend and was able to speak to their experience for socio-economic impacts stemming from development. Obviously they have a couple of diamond mines in their backyard and a couple more to come. I think that was very valuable and the shared experience and discussion around best practices was useful. I think that should be a boiler plate for future conferences.

Now, as we go forward, we know that the socio-economic impact fund, the SIF funds, the \$500 million from the federal government, will hopefully roll out and we will need regional planning groups to talk about regional priorities. The work from this conference will be fed into that and will help lay out the regional priorities and will help that group make some funding decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 327-15(4): Sahtu Socio-Economic Conference**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Government of the Northwest Territories, specifically the honourable Member, Mr. Bell, in terms of his support to fund this, as well as the Department of Indian Affairs. I want to ask again, would the Minister, in terms of following up with the socio-economic conference, how are the departments going to be getting together? There needs to be some quick communication in putting this action plan together for the socio-economic impacts. Thank you.

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



**Further Return To Question 327-15(4): Sahtu Socio-Economic Conference**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have to sit down with Indian and Northern Development and talk about outcomes from this conference, but I know that the Minister of Health also had some follow-up work that he had initiated coming from other conferences, so this will feed into that. We will take that input and that consultation and ensure that we discuss that across departments and with the federal government, which is obviously important, as they sit down with the \$500 million fund to talk about priorities. So we will collate that information. We will make sure there is a discussion of regional priorities and we will move forward from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya. Oral questions. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. Replies to the budget address. Petitions. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 18, Appropriation Act, 2006-2007.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 18. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Roland. You may proceed.

**ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 18: Appropriation Act, 2006-2007**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 18, Appropriation Act, 2006-2007, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 18 has had first reading.

First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 18: Appropriation Act, 2006-2007**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 18, Appropriation Act, 2006-2007, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make operation expenditures and capital investment expenditures for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Thank you.

**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 18 has had second reading and, accordingly, this bill stands referred to Committee of the Whole.

Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Report of Committee of the Whole. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Friday, February 3, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
  - Motion 12-15(4), Provisional Rule Changes to Implement Designated Budget Days
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act
  - Bill 14, Public Airports Act

- Bill 18, Appropriation Act, 2006-2007

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, February 3, 2006, at 10:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 16:17 p.m.