



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

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## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2006**

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**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>1461</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1461</b>
87-15(4) - INCREASED HOURS OF HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS .....	1461
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1461</b>
MR. HAWKINS ON RECOGNITION OF ARCTIC WINTER GAMES ATHLETES .....	1461
MR. ROBERT MCLEOD ON MEDICAL TRAVEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES .....	1462
MR. LAFFERTY ON DENE HAND GAMES IN BEHCHOKO.....	1462
MS. LEE ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF CANADIAN WOMEN .....	1462
MR. BRADEN ON WAGES AND BENEFITS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS' WORKERS.....	1463
MR. MENICOCHE ON HIGHWAY INVESTMENT IN THE NAHENDÉH REGION .....	1463
MR. VILLENEUVE ON HOOK LAKE BISON PROJECT .....	1463
MR. POKIAK ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF COMMUNITIES.....	1464
MR. YAKELEYA ON "DROP THE POP" CAMPAIGN.....	1464
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>1464</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>1465</b>
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>1472</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>1472</b>
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>1472</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>1493</b>
<b>THIRD READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>1493</b>
BILL 12 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE TERRITORIAL COURT ACT .....	1493
BILL 15 - COURT SECURITY ACT.....	1493
BILL 18 - APPROPRIATION ACT, 2006-2007 .....	1493
BILL 20 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT, NO. 2 .....	1494
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>1494</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, March 1, 2006****Members Present**

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Charles Dent, 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

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Members, it is my duty to advise the House of the unavoidable absence of both our Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Pursuant to section 48 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I will now entertain a motion to appoint an acting Speaker. Mr. Menicoche.

**Motion To Elect Acting Speaker, Carried**

**MR. MENICOCHE:** I move, seconded by Honourable Charles Dent, Member for Frame Lake, that we appoint Mr. Dave Ramsay, Member for Kam Lake, as Speaker for the day.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** All those in favour? All those opposed? I will now ask Mr. Ramsay to assume the chair as Acting Speaker.

---Carried

---Applause

**ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. David Ramsay):** Thank you, colleagues. I am honoured to assume the chair as your Speaker today. Unfortunately, it's under sad circumstances that I do so. On behalf of all Members, I offer my thoughts and prayers to Mr. Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen and their families during these difficult days. As your acting Speaker, I will do my best to advance the business of the House in an efficient manner, and apply the rules of the House in a fair and impartial way. We are near the end of a rather long sitting of this House and I will ask all Members to please continue to treat one another with respect and dignity. We will now proceed to the orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The Honourable Michael McLeod.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 87-15(4): Increased Hours Of Highway Maintenance Operations**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been ongoing growth in private and commercial vehicle use due to resource development. The climate is warming and bringing more precipitation and more variable weather patterns. Our transportation infrastructure is aging. The severity of each of these factors is expected to increase into the future. These factors are forcing the department to increase the operation and maintenance efforts.

Mr. Speaker in the past, the department's own maintenance forces worked a standard 40-hour week, Monday through Friday. Maintenance requirements occurring in the evenings or on weekends were expensive as employees were paid overtime rates. It was always a challenge to respond in a timely and cost-effective manner.

To solve these challenges, the department has restructured its own force operations and changed the standard operation to a 12 hours per day, seven days per week. I would personally like to thank the Department of Transportation employees for their hard work and flexibility to accommodate these changes.

Mr. Speaker, this change in operations will result in dramatic improvement in road conditions during the winter months when adverse weather conditions are combined with increased commercial truck activity. This will make the highway system safer for all users. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Colleagues, I would like to direct your attention to the presence in the visitors' gallery today of Martin Cronin, the British Consul General.

---Applause

With him as well is Ms. Carmen Moore, chief of protocol. Welcome to our proceedings.

---Applause

Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS****Member's Statement On Recognition Of Arctic Winter Games Athletes**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year's Arctic Winter Games are about to get underway later this week and I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all the athletes, the staff, the volunteers who will be travelling to Alaska representing the NWT.

In particular, I would like to recognize a number of constituents from Yellowknife Centre who have committed themselves to the game and the spirit of competition. Mr. Speaker, I am going to name all the athletes: Laurell Graf, badminton team coach; Michael Callas, junior male basketball; Alexander Hopkins, midget male cross-country skiing; Peggy MacConnell, hockey; Jordan Balint, midget hockey; Kelsey MacDougall, intermediate female soccer; Hope Charpentier, junior female soccer; Chi Nguyen, juvenile female soccer; Dustan Curtis, juvenile male

soccer; Ian MacDougall, junior male speedskating; Marie-Christine Auge, juvenile female speedskating; and, Stephanie Bourgois, juvenile female speedskating.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals, along with the entire NWT Team, will represent us and I am sure will make us all proud. I have every confidence in their abilities and their sportsmanship attitude. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate them and wish them all good luck, as well as the whole team, in Kenai, Alaska. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement On Medical Travel Policies And Procedures**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recent events regarding a resident of Inuvik, who was travelling to Yellowknife for medical reasons, has lead me to question how patients are cared for when they arrive in Yellowknife. Is there any communication, Mr. Speaker, between the regions and Yellowknife as to what the patients are coming down for, and why do we have to put them in taxis? Is there not a boarding home van to pick the patients up, or was it after 5:00 p.m.? We cannot allow this to happen, Mr. Speaker. Why does the authorization have to come out of Yellowknife? Is this government's idea of decentralization, or does it just apply to moving from one location to another in Yellowknife?

Mr. Speaker, travel authorization escorts should be made at the regional level. They should know the medical history of the patients and whether they require an escort or not. A case in point, Mr. Speaker, a patient just came down from the Beaufort-Delta recently for surgery. The doctor informed her she should have an escort because she will need help getting back to her place that she's staying at in town here. Luckily, a relative of hers was in town and agreed to wait so she can take care of her when she's done.

Mr. Speaker, when I get older and may need medical travel, I am going to ask my family to throw me in the back of a transport truck and ship me south because I am afraid of the treatment I may get here.

Mr. Speaker, the patient was a mother and a grandmother and, sadly, her family had to lay her to rest. I think we let them down, Mr. Speaker, and let's not let that happen again.

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

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Dene Hand Games In Behchoko**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, throughout the session, I have been speaking mostly about one issue, which is our Dene languages and culture. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to highlight some things that are going to be happening in Behchoko.

During their meeting, they are going to have a hand game tournament. The tournament will be happening this weekend and people from all communities, from Behchoko, Whati, Tulita, Gameti, Wekweeti, Deline, Lutselk'e and also from Meander River communities will be coming to Behchoko to try out in this tournament. Sometimes some of the teams will be coming from each community, some bringing more than one team. So there are still more people signing up for the tournament. It's going to be from Friday to Sunday and also, Mr. Speaker, this kind of cultural activity is very important for our people. This kind of activity has been happening for many years. They are not only going to come together because of the prize money, but also to be involved and coming together as brotherhood and celebrating who we are as Dene people. Some of these people have not seen each other for many years.

As for the Tlicho people, we are proud of our Dene ways. On behalf of the Tlicho people, I would like to invite Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in this gathering. We would like to see you in our community to share in our culture and tradition. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. We have the honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### **Member's Statement On Achievements And Challenges Of Canadian Women**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to speak about women's achievements in various fields, especially in politics and sports. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in one of the meetings in the back room, one of my male colleagues suggested that I should stop being so anti-male. Obviously this is a highly offensive statement, but I am used to that in the world of politics. But it did get me to start dreaming about what it would be like if the Cabinet across the floor were made up of all women instead of all men. I am sure all of my questions and objections to what they are doing or not doing would not be considered as being anti-male.

Of course, if there were nine women and two men on this side of the floor, I wondered how one of them would feel if accused of being anti-female for simply doing his job. Mr. Speaker, this speaks to a much larger issue of the ever-decreasing rate of women's representation in Canadian legislatures. In fact, with the recent federal election, once a leader, Canada now ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the world, behind the even newly elected Legislature of Afghanistan. Of course, right here at home, we continue to have two women out of 19 Members and we have the dubious distinction of owning the only Cabinet in Canada without women.

On a hopeful note, Mr. Speaker, everywhere I go in the North, I see strong and able women leaders doing fantastic jobs in all communities and it is my fervent hope that more of them will join us in this House in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, it is also comforting to know that this is not par for the course in the outside world. When I was at Dalhousie Law School, between 1994 and 1997, my second year was the first time where there were more women law students than men and we definitely see women taking up a larger space of lawyers' and doctors' offices, and engineering, and many other fields in our community.

What about our women Olympians, Mr. Speaker? Not only do we have our very own Sharon and Shirley Firth of Guts to Glory to celebrate, but our newest women Olympians brought us two-thirds of all the medals won. They brought us a gold medal the first day and the last day, the most medals won by any Canadian Olympian of all times and the only hockey goal of the games, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, what this shows me is if we can just work through the manmade barriers, women will always achieve in spectacular fashion for the entire country and mankind.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Wages And Benefits For Non-Government Organizations' Workers**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In the last two days, Mr. Speaker, the issue of parity or at least some degree of fairness in wages and benefits for NGOs that deliver programs on behalf of our government has been a bit of a topic here. It's interesting to note some evolution in that issue, Mr. Chairman. I would quote from Hansard of February 23<sup>rd</sup> from a comment that the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services, said in regard to a question about wage parity. The Hansard record says of the Minister, "I don't recollect when the time was that there was automatic increases given. It must have been in another century because it's not clear in my present memory when that was."

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to quote briefly from a letter, correspondence received from the executive director of the YWCA. She offers correspondence from July 13, 2001. This may or may not have been under Mr. Miltenberger's watch as this Minister in the previous Assembly, but it is very illuminating to see that this letter advises that, "With the Department of Health and Social Services' assistance, we have been successful in obtaining additional funding to provide a 3.8 and 2.5 percent increase in salaries and a two percent increase in O and M. We are pleased to be able to provide some financial recognition for the important work your staff carries out in the community."

Mr. Speaker, from what the Minister said a few days ago and what came forward under the Yellowknife Health and Social Services authority directly attributing the department's willingness to support our NGOs, there is a considerable difference in the Minister's statement and position and what this department has actually done. I am going to be asking him to account for that difference when we get to question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Highway Investment In The Nahendeh Region**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I drive on the beautiful Nahendeh highways frequently for business and pleasure. One of my favourite songs is On the Road Again by Willie Nelson. However, I am not playing that song very often as our gravel roads continue to deteriorate quickly during the summer months. Today, in my constituency, many people are participating in Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent where it is a common practice to give up something or actively make the world a better place. These are the values I try to use every day while representing the Nahendeh. Will the Minister commit to enhancing the transportation infrastructure in Nahendeh, especially chipsealing Highway No. 1 and No. 7?

This government has developed a Tourism Strategy and transportation that must be included. Tourism dollars are valuable and cannot be taken for granted. Every year, the communities in the region, or territorial government, must actively and creatively initiate aggressive tourism projects to ensure tourism activity. This is directly tied to economic development.

There was a press release on the Tourism Strategy on February 27<sup>th</sup> called, Tourism 2010. This is a \$15 million commitment by this government to help build tourism. Five key areas had been identified. However, according to my research, nothing had been earmarked for highway improvements. There is a gap as it fails to address the road system that our tourism needs. We must continue and accelerate the plans to chipseal Highway No. 1 and No. 7. This would not only improve the condition and safety of our highways, but also encourage tourism in a badly needed region. Safety is a primary concern of this government. As economic activity increases, so too must the resources to ensure our highways are maintained adequately and safely.

As expressed during my oral questions on Monday, tourism is a word of mouth industry, Mr. Speaker. Other regions in Canada with similar attributes get hundreds of thousands of visitors a year. I believe so can we. The completion of a chipseal Deh Cho trail is critical to this objective, Mr. Speaker.

In closing, our highways are a key to entrenching the tourism future for all residents. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Menicoche. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

#### **Member's Statement On Hook Lake Bison Project**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, caribou management has been a topic of great importance to me of late, but equally important to my constituents is the issue of bison management.

Mr. Speaker, the Hook Lake bison recovery project has been providing food and employment opportunities to my constituents since its conception. The Deninu Kue residents do not want to see this project come to a sad and sudden end, especially after many years of active community participation and the gathering of scientific

research this project has provided this government with in order to better manage our wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, the Deninu Kue residents will be meeting with the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources tomorrow to discuss the fate of this project, but it seems that it has been communicated to me that the fate of the Hook Lake Bison Recovery Program has already been sealed without the consent or consultation of the community members.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this is not the case. I look forward to the Minister's visit tomorrow in which we can find and look for some direction to an agreeable, cooperative approach to our -- and I stress our, Mr. Speaker -- bison management plan that the community can agree to and cooperate with. Thank you.

---Applause

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Villeneuve. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

#### **Member's Statement On Transportation Infrastructure Needs Of Communities**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement today will be on the vehicle gravel materials to maintain the roads, driveways and build the necessary building pads for the further development in the community of Tuktoyaktuk.

Mr. Speaker, because the closest gravel source is not accessible by an all-weather road, the hamlet and community contractors have to wait until the winter months to build up their stockpiles for the upcoming years. With so many unknowns on the pace of development, the Tuktoyaktuk planning committee has identified and need for ready access to a gravel source.

Mr. Speaker, I have to wonder about our government where the Department of Justice can just get about \$3 million in the 2006-07 Main Estimates to begin work on the courthouse in Yellowknife, but, yet, Municipal and Community Affairs has only identified a meagre \$250,000 to address gravel materials for all of the communities in the Northwest Territories; peanuts for infrastructure in communities and millions for Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet and the deputy minister in the capital planning should give serious considerations to the infrastructure needs of the communities. A need for gravel materials for roads, water access service and landfills are crucial to the safety of all residents and communities. This government should work with the Inuvialuit Land Administration to gain year-round access to gravel source 177 which is only 22 kilometres from the community of Tuktoyaktuk. Opening up gravel source 177 will address Tuktoyaktuk's gravel needs for a number of years. I am concerned that, with the coming of the pipeline, the needs of the industry will take the priority over the infrastructure needs of the communities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to encourage this government to enter into a dialogue with Inuvialuit Land Administration and the hamlet to secure the gravel source for the future of Tuktoyaktuk. Funding will also be required for the community of Tuktoyaktuk to secure the rights to this gravel source. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On "Drop The Pop" Campaign**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the news I read that the North of 60, there was a territorial challenge by the Nunavut government called, Drop the Pop campaign that will begin on March 27<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. It is challenging the Yukon government, the territorial government here in the Northwest Territories and also the Nunavut government. It is based on a creative concept in Nunavut. It is about having the communities and the schools avoid drinking pop for one full week. Again, this challenge went out to the two other territories. It is to create awareness for the schools in the communities about the dangers of drinking pop in the people's lives. It is to promote a healthy lifestyle for the young people and also for the community.

Also, Mr. Speaker, there is funding available, I understand, to provide for communities and schools in terms of types of incentive that could have as children drop the pop for a whole week. Also, there is funding for participation in this challenge here. I look forward to the Minister laying out some type of strategy or some type of announcement for these school kids or communities to take part in this challenge as the Northwest Territories, like any other territory, certainly loves a good challenge, especially with our family territories across the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a worthwhile challenge. There are many other friendly issues that we could challenge each other on different areas of issues that we have faced with the North. I look forward to the Minister in terms of releasing an announcement on the type of support and incentive that we could come up to the challenge and look at the results when this challenge is finished.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward again to the Minister's strategy in terms of having a challenge for the Yukon and Nunavut governments. Thank you.

---Applause

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

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

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, Barb Wyness with the UNW, in the gallery.

---Applause

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would also like to say hello to Ms. Gayla Wick from the UNW, as well. Welcome, ladies, to the proceedings.

---Applause

Thank you, Members. Oral questions. Mr. Braden.



**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS****Question 490-15(4): Wages And Benefits For Non-Government Organizations' Workers**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this morning is for Mr. Miltenberger, the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it refers to the issue of making sure that the non-government organizations that we partner with receive a realistic pay and benefit package for their staff, something which we have lost a lot of ground on. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, the Minister said that he didn't recall when there was a time when automatic increases were given, and yet I have correspondence from the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board dating back a couple years now, Mr. Speaker, to July of 2001, in which salary increments were put forward to the YWCA through the Department of Health and Social Services' assistance. This was done, and I quote from the letter, "to provide some financial recognition for the important work your staff carries out in communities." Mr. Speaker, how can the Minister account for this written acknowledgement of the significance of the work that NGOs do and his own recollection of just a few days ago when automatic increases were not given? Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 490-15(4): Wages And Benefits For Non-Government Organizations' Workers**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this issue is one where there has not been consistency in the past. My account for not being aware of this information is due to, in all probability, my memory and not being aware of that particular detail. I do know that there is no annual increase to NGOs that are built in as forced growth. I know that the concern from women's shelters, from every other organization that I have talked to, has been that often their budgets have been pegged at a certain level as they haven't seen any increases for salaries, cost of doing business or anything. In this case, the YWCA was fortunate; but the reality is that we don't have an ongoing method to build it into our budgets at this point. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 490-15(4): Wages And Benefits For Non-Government Organizations' Workers**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, I believe we do have a way of building something like this into our ongoing budget. It is called forced growth. We do it all the time. We are going to be dealing with it later on today, I believe, when we consider the supplementary appropriation bill. This is something that I would be very much in support of considering if the Minister's department or, in fact, others that deal with NGOs, feel that it could be warranted, to offer our partner NGOs an increment for salary and wages. Would the Minister consider using forced growth as a way of providing these NGOs with some wage and benefit parody, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 490-15(4): Wages And Benefits For Non-Government Organizations' Workers**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated previously in this session and in this House, the government has developed a third-party accountability framework that is giving us a way to put a frame around this particular issue, recognizing the important work that the NGOs are doing and classifying them in different categories. The key number one category being that if the NGO does not provide the service, would the government have to provide it on their own with their own resources? As I indicated previously in this House, we are working on lists collectively that we can bring forward that would classify the NGOs that currently do business for us, in this case, Health and Social Services, to make the case that they be given that consideration on an ongoing basis within that third-party accountability framework. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 490-15(4): Wages And Benefits For Non-Government Organizations' Workers**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, does the third-party accountability framework specifically, absolutely include NGOs like the YWCA? Does it capture those organizations within the intent and the purpose of the policy? Or does it only apply to those agencies such as Health and Social Services authorities, local housing authorities, district education boards, those ones that are directly mandated? I am trying to find out, Mr. Speaker, does our policy take that extra step to include NGOs that are not statutory creations of this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 490-15(4): Wages And Benefits For Non-Government Organizations' Workers**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The third-party accountability framework is designed to be able to recognize the work of NGOs. The health authorities, the DEAs are considered employees. They have collective agreements. They are part of our budgeting process. NGOs currently, in terms of when it comes to forced growth and other issues, are not. This third-party accountability was designed specifically due to the recognition of the fact by the government that this is an area that we would have to be able to better define so that we can address appropriately. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 491-15(4): School Transportation Services**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker...(Translation) I spoke on something very important yesterday which was the safety of the children and transporting them to their school. I talked about bussing. (Translation ends)

...from the isolated communities. The words I am sharing today are not my words, Mr. Speaker. These are the

words of our respected elders in the communities. They want this territorial government to deal with this public safety that I addressed yesterday and today. The Department of ECE and divisional boards' responsibility is to ensure the safety of our young school children. They need to go to school safely, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of ECE is, what measures has the department taken into consideration to ensure bussing for isolated communities such as Wekweeti, Gameti and Whati as this year's capital projects? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for ECE, Mr. Dent.

**Return To Question 491-15(4): School Transportation Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has no program for providing capital for buses to DEC's. We provide money for transportation as part of the grant that we provide to DEC's and agencies like the Tlicho Community Services Agency. It is up to those agencies to determine how transportation is provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 491-15(4): School Transportation Services**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister indicated, funding does consist of bussing if need be in the communities. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress that, with the current funding to Tlicho Community Services Agency, it is stretched as it is with no flexibility to contract out or purchase a school bus, Mr. Speaker. There is absolutely no room, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister commit in this House to invest in school transportation as part of the additional funding so there is no impact on the current funding that is geared towards providing core subjects, cultural and language programs and inclusive schooling? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 491-15(4): School Transportation Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the budget that has been considered in this House, there is no money that would be specifically allocated for that purpose. It is entirely up to the Tlicho Community Services Agency to determine if that is one of their priorities. If it is, then it is their responsibility to take the money out of their regular programming and put it into transportation. They have the right and the responsibility to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 491-15(4): School Transportation Services**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to stress that, with the new information on the decline of caribou herd that we have heard last week and related increase of wolves and grizzlies in the isolated communities in my region, I would like to ask the Minister again if he will be willing to revamp or look into

some sort of amendment to supplement the current funding available to the Tlicho Community Services Agency to ensure something as simple as transportation services are available to isolated communities such as Gameti, Wekweeti, and Whati, and the basic need for our safety of our children is met? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 491-15(4): School Transportation Services**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is a concern for safety for the children in those communities, then it is incumbent on the DEAs and the Tlicho Community Services Agency to deal with that issue. Either they need to work with parents to make sure that somebody is walking with the children to school to make sure that they are safe, or they need to find some way to provide that transportation. But, Mr. Speaker, all of the money that we have within the department for schooling goes to schools. We don't keep any money available for other special projects. So right now, all of the money is being distributed. The money that has been approved in the budget for the next year is allocated to the DEC's. There is no pot of money that I can draw on in order to provide extraordinary services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

**Question 492-15(4): Transportation Infrastructure Needs Of Communities**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, I spoke of the need for the community of Tuktoyaktuk to secure access for the gravel located at source 177. Without a steady year-round source of gravel, Tuktoyaktuk will have a problem meeting their infrastructure needs. We understand that the Department of Transportation has plans for a road to gravel source 177, so that physical access to part of the problem is being addressed. Mr. Speaker, what needs to be addressed is the right of the community to use the granular source that belongs to the ILA, Inuvialuit Land Administration. Can the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs tell this Assembly what his department can do to assist the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk in securing the necessary funds to access gravel source 177? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 492-15(4): Transportation Infrastructure Needs Of Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the gravel revolving stockpile fund was wound down in 1999. Investment for gravel requirements have been built into the municipal community government budgets. In the case of Tuktoyaktuk, there are no specific projects that we can point to at this point. I don't have any listed that require gravel. We don't have any plans to bring any stockpile into that community either from the Department of Transportation or from MACA. Having said that, there is a need across the Territories for assistance to look at

the issue of gravel. We are working with other departments to put together a gravel study. We hope to have that completed. We are working with the Public Works department. The Housing Corporation and Municipal and Community Affairs and DOT are working together to try to come to deal with some of the issues that are coming forward from some of the communities. That study will be ready this spring. In terms of actual projects for gravel required in Tuktoyaktuk, there is none identified in our capital plan. We have a gravel fund of \$250,000 that we provide to communities if there are additional requirements needed over and above what is built into the community government plan, and there was no request from that community for this fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

**Supplementary To Question 492-15(4):  
Transportation Infrastructure Needs Of Communities**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am still disappointed that there is no money identified for Tuktoyaktuk for gravel all this winter. As you well know, Mr. Speaker, Tuktoyaktuk is well known for the erosion problems that they are having. In terms of stockpiling, I think that is important that the department identify that Tuktoyaktuk should be of necessary needs to address right away. I would like to ask the Minister again, under the \$250,000, how much of that...I know he said there is no money identified with Tuktoyaktuk, but can some of that money go towards Tuktoyaktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Minister McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 492-15(4): Transportation Infrastructure Needs Of Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no. The money in the \$250,000 is application based. That money has already been committed. We have six communities that have applied for this money. They have been approved. That money has already been committed for this year. Tuktoyaktuk did not put in an application for this community revolving fund of \$250,000. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

**Supplementary To Question 492-15(4):  
Transportation Infrastructure Needs Of Communities**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I will voice my disappointment, but again, this winter is the only time that Tuktoyaktuk can access gravel haul from source 177. If the Minister is able to find money like he did for other projects like in previous years for the Executive, or able to find money from elsewhere, if there is any money that can be found to access the gravel haul, will he consider Tuktoyaktuk as one of the priorities for gravel haul? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Minister McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 492-15(4): Transportation Infrastructure Needs Of Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in order for us to, as a government, consider a gravel stockpile and to bring in equipment or to contract that out, we need to have specific projects. I recognize the Member's need to work towards building a road system to the source of gravel. It is a problem for the community of Tuktoyaktuk. We recognize that. There has been a large request for a large contribution from the community that we have considered. We are not able to accommodate it. We have continued to realize that there is a need for a reliable source. However, in order to have a stockpile program, we have to have the projects that either Public Works brings forward or the Housing Corporation brings forward, or MACA, for that matter. They bring these things forward. We will take that into consideration and look at doing a winter haul. At this point, there are no projects in the community that we have identified for this fiscal year. We are not looking at doing a gravel haul. We continue to work with the federal government in our requests for additional money to build a road to the source 177. We have to, once again, meet with the federal government to discuss our plans to bring forward a list of our needs in that area. We hope to do that this spring. Hopefully, we will have some firmer answers for the Member in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 493-15(4): GNWT Position For Supporting Diamond Industry**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today go to the Minister of ITI. Earlier in this session -- and we have been sitting here for almost a month -- there were some questions about the discussions that need to be held between the secondary diamond industry companies and the diamond producer. The Minister made a commitment to bring them together to see if their differences could be worked out. I would like to know, as we are about to leave this House and we are not going to sit until June, I wondered if the Minister could update this House as to where we are on that file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Brendan Bell, the Minister of ITI.

**Return To Question 493-15(4): GNWT Position For Supporting Diamond Industry**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The dispute between one of the mines and one of the cutting and polishing operations has been ongoing for some time now. I do know that, in Antwerp, the two parties met to try to work through these issues and resolve them. I don't have a full briefing in terms of exactly what was determined at that meeting. I do know from one of the sides that part of the ask raised some concerns about being able to, or the desire of the factory, to take some of the rough that wasn't economic to polish in the Northwest Territories and move it offshore. Obviously, our policy as a government is that this is a problem for us, so we want to better understand what they are asking, Mr. Speaker. But I haven't sat down with the two parties yet. I will

endeavour to do so as soon as we are out of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 493-15(4): GNWT Position For Supporting Diamond Industry**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I am going to have to ask the Minister to be more forthcoming on exactly what his approach is and where this government stands on this issue. This government is not exactly a bystander on this file. This government has invested a lot of money and the well being of this cutting and polishing plant has many implications for us. I do understand. I don't even want to call this a dispute. I see that there is a disagreement. I know this is a disagreement between two commercial companies. I want to respect their place in sorting that out, but I am still not clear. I do believe there is a role for the Minister to play. Has the Minister given a thought to this file? What is his approach going to be for the next little while to resolve this issue? Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Bell.

**Further Return To Question 493-15(4): GNWT Position For Supporting Diamond Industry**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, we are going to bring the two parties together to try to work to some resolution. It is difficult for me to get into the nuances here and the intricacies of the disagreement, but I have, from the mine at least, the assertion that what was being asked for at the meeting in Antwerp was the ability to take some of the rough they weren't able to cut and polish here, what they deemed uneconomic, and move it offshore to a lower-cost cutting centre. That has always, from a policy perspective, been a problem for our government because today, what is uneconomic, tomorrow may be twice that amount that is deemed uneconomic. We would have to have some objective way to assess that. It gives us problems. We see it as the thin edge of the wedge and could potentially lead to the downfall of the local industry here. So we work very hard to get an allocation of rough for the local industry here. We want to make sure it's there. We don't have the interest of seeing that rough move offshore. Mr. Speaker, obviously, it's very complicated. I will sit with the two parties and try to work through the issue, but that gives you some sense of what we're grappling with. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Bell. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 493-15(4): GNWT Position For Supporting Diamond Industry**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say, for the record, that I respect the contribution that both sides do make to our city and our territory. I appreciate we want to make them work and we want them both to prosper. Mr. Speaker, however, in talking to both parties - and I've had an occasion to talk to them -- I'm not sure if at least one party, anyway, understands that this is an issue that the government has any place in. So I'd like to know what specifically he's going to do to make sure that we are a party to that. We have a great deal of interest in the success of both industries. Could he be more specific about when his next meeting might be and what kind of

communication has he had so far with both sides, he's only speaking about one side. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Bell.

**Further Return To Question 493-15(4): GNWT Position For Supporting Diamond Industry**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that my departmental officials have been in discussions with both parties. We are going to work to set up a meeting so that we can sit down and go through the myriad of issues. As I've said, it's very nuanced. I can't get into what this government will do if and when we start going through some hypothetical scenarios. We think and we are optimistic that we can arrive at an agreeable solution. We think both parties recognize the interest that the GNWT has in seeing this resolved, and we do think there is a commitment on the part of both parties to make this work going forward. So once we are done here in the House, I will sit down with my officials, we will try to set a meeting with the two parties. Obviously, some of them are overseas, so one of the things we have to do is work out schedules and make a determination around where it's easiest to meet. If they were all in Yellowknife, it would be very easy to do, but it's not, Mr. Speaker. So I'll work on that and hopefully we should be able to get a meeting within the month, the month of March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Bell. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 494-15(4): Medical Travel Policies And Procedures**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not questioning the medical care that patients receive once they get to the hospital. You know, we have one of the best medical systems in the world. But my colleagues and I, and it's an argument that we've had for a long time, it's the actual getting to the hospital part is where we have concerns with. My understanding is that the authorization now for medical travel is made out of Yellowknife, referred to by Inuvik. So I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, where did this direction come from to authorize medical travel out of Yellowknife and take it out of the regions? Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 494-15(4): Medical Travel Policies And Procedures**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It came from me. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 494-15(4): Medical Travel Policies And Procedures**

**MR. MCLEOD:** So the authorization came from the Minister, he states. So I'd like to know, who gave the Minister his direction. Did he consult with the regions? I think that to say the decision came from him, I'd like to

ask, then, who did the Minister get his direction from? Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Minister Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 494-15(4): Medical Travel Policies And Procedures**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the rationale for that decision was based on efficiencies; it was based on the need for coordination; it was based on the fact that we found out at one point, a year or so ago, that we had paid for over 1,800 bed days in Capital Health out in Edmonton for services that could have been provided out of Stanton, because without the coordination that we currently have in place, Stanton was routinely overflowed as a result of referrals made by the different authorities and the different communities. This was part of our review of how we do business. We were working with the senior managers, the board chairs from all the authorities, and one of the directions that came out of that and that I approved and agreed to was the need to coordinate travel in the North and South to make sure that we used our facilities to the best possible way and we didn't pay twice for services that we already have. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 494-15(4): Medical Travel Policies And Procedures**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Minister for a little clearer answer. I agree with the Minister that coordination is a big part of it. I wasn't questioning sending the patients south to the city, my questions were based on sending people to Yellowknife and that seems to be where there's a real lack of communication, Mr. Speaker. Too many people are being left out in the cold when they get to Yellowknife. They're sitting at the airport for three hours. We can talk for hours on the stories we hear. So I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services to demand his department improve the lines of communication so we don't have elders sitting at the airport waiting out in the cold. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 494-15(4): Medical Travel Policies And Procedures**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate and note the Member's concern, and I want to assure the Member that we work every day to try to make sure we provide the highest level of service possible. When there are circumstances that happen where the systems may not have worked appropriately, we backtrack on those and we try to take the steps necessary to make sure that, in fact, services are provided. I would like to point out that, yes, there are times when things don't work and those are unfortunate, but the vast majority of time, medical travel works in a good, efficient way. But in the cases like the one the Member's mentioned, we are looking at it to make sure that while we can't change the past, that we learn from it and try to improve service for the future. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Question 495-15(4): Need For Immediate Alternative Housing Solutions**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Last week, I had the pleasure of being on the Hay River Reserve and I had a quick, brief tour of 10 two-bedroom units that they're constructing on the reserve. I thought that was a really good idea, so I just want to ask the Minister how this project came about and can we look at doing other communities, as well? Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Honourable David Krutko, Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

**Return To Question 495-15(4): Need For Immediate Alternative Housing Solutions**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have a Loan Guarantee Program in which we were able to assist the Hay River Reserve by getting a loan through a loan guarantee where we guaranteed the loan in which they were able to borrow \$1 million from the bank and build 10 units on the reserve. Again, the program is open to every organization out there. We have several of these in place with a lot of businesses, and also people in the private sector. So this program is in place; it is there to assist people in the private sector to develop housing infrastructure in the North. So it is a program we provide which is called the Loan Guarantee Program.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 495-15(4): Need For Immediate Alternative Housing Solutions**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Minister for that response. It's been something that the communities have been crying...Well, not crying, but they've been looking for an alternative to relieve the housing pressures immediately. I know that we've got ABCD Company that's going to provide all these thousands of homes, but it's today that people want answers for...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Today.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** ...Mr. Speaker, and that's a good alternative. Once again, if the Minister can tell me how can the communities, for example, Fort Liard, get the process initiated for such a program of building 10 homes? Thank you.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Hear! Hear!

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 495-15(4): Need For Immediate Alternative Housing Solutions**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been talking to aboriginal organizations. We have a program right now in place with the Metis Land Corporation in Norman Wells. We've done

a project with them where we've built eight units, where they built four, we built four. Again, it was through a Loan Guarantee Program.

But again, we have talked to land claims organizations, band organizations, and also people in the private sector, that this program exists. I think we're hoping people will take up this program, especially where communities have lands in regards to IAB lands. I think that's one of the reserve's unique qualities, is because they have a large land base, they were able to use the land as part of their collateral, going to the bank and also being able to...(inaudible)...that loan.

Again, we are open to talking with any community organizations, bands, land claims organizations, to consider this program. It is there, again, but we are open to sitting down with anyone interested in talking. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Krutko. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 495-15(4): Need For Immediate Alternative Housing Solutions**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Just in terms of financing of a program such as this, does the corporation have a set aside pool of money for this? I thought I heard him mention another organization, but what kind of cost-sharing arrangements are there, or does the...I know that the corporation has budgeted allotments for regions and per community, is this something that he's looking at taking the funds directly from there? Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Menicoche. Minister Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 495-15(4): Need For Immediate Alternative Housing Solutions**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a Loan Guarantee Program where we guarantee the loan of a client. They go to the bank, the bank wants some certainty that they want to be able to assured that if they give a loan, someone will basically guarantee it. So we guarantee the loans as they're approved by the banks. So that's the loan guarantee that we offer. Again, it's up to \$1 million. In those cases, we work that arrangement with the banks, the individual and ourselves. Where we've offered the loan guarantee, we have a written letter. Thank you.

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

**Question 496-15(4): Municipal Electoral Reform**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, talk of an election always seems to kind of get people interested in what's going on, and a question came to me about electoral reform on a municipal level. So I wrote an e-mail to the Minister and he did reply, but I'd like to hear what the Minister's thoughts are about any potential municipal electoral reform that will be coming in the next little while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 496-15(4): Municipal Electoral Reform**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the question was raised by the Member. We are planning to have that discussion with the NWT Association of Communities. There has been no formal request to have this reform take place as of yet, and we will do follow-up once that discussion takes place if there is a desire from that association to move forward on it. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 496-15(4): Municipal Electoral Reform**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, the issue of mandatory reporting, mobile voting for things like people at seniors' homes and hospitals, some of those are the issues that have been drawn out through some type of electoral reform. Is the Minister saying today that we have to wait for the NWT municipalities to put forward a request for any type of electoral reform, or can he hear me today on these types of matters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 496-15(4): Municipal Electoral Reform**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have already heard from the Member; he sent us a letter. We have flagged this as an issue we'd like to discuss with the NWT Association of Communities, and I'd rather have that discussion before I make any decisions whether we're going to move forward on this issue or not. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 496-15(4): Municipal Electoral Reform**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I think really what I'm saying is if people in seniors' homes who can't get down to the voting box, or people in the hospital who are there for long-term care, may be missing out on their democratic right to vote for representatives that they feel strong about. So, Mr. Speaker, can I have the Minister commit today that they'll seriously look at that, regardless of if the municipalities are in support of this at this time or they are not in support of these types of things at this time? Can I get that commitment from the Minister that he'll look into those seriously and consider those types of reviews? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 496-15(4): Municipal Electoral Reform**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will commit to having that discussion with the municipalities. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 497-15(4): Resource Revenue Sharing And Post-Devolution Plans**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier, Premier Handley. I'd like to ask Premier Handley in terms of the territorial vision or the territorial next step in terms...For example, if we get the devolution agreement and if we get resource revenue sharing by the time this government finishes its term here, I'd like to ask the Premier what's the vision, what's the next step once we get devolution, once we get the resource revenue sharing, what's the vision? Where is the Premier leading us, Mr. Speaker?

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 497-15(4): Resource Revenue Sharing And Post-Devolution Plans**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The preamble to the question really is when we get devolution, when we get resource revenues, not if. We're past that point, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the next step, once we begin to receive our fair share of resource revenues, is to move ahead on aspects of our strategic plan that we set as a government when we first took office almost three years ago, two-and-a-half years ago. There are pieces on that in people becoming more self-reliant on use to complete infrastructure requests that Members have raised, in fact, today, to move ahead with that quickly.

Mr. Speaker, on devolution, that will give us the authority to be able to determine the pace and the rate of development. We currently have a lot of development happening in the Territories and some people would say, in fact, it's happening at a rate faster than we can manage it. So, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when we have that kind of control over development, over the use of the land, and the water, and the resources, and also the fiscal resources available to meet our strategic plan and our goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 497-15(4): Resource Revenue Sharing And Post-Devolution Plans**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will we have the resource revenue sharing agreement signed, and when we have a properly satisfied devolution agreement with this territorial government, I'd like to ask when, when will the Premier again involve the people of the Northwest Territories in any type of post-devolution and resource revenue sharing. What's our next step? We're now masters of our own land, so I look forward to that day. I think that's going to be a great day for the Northwest Territories when we have those two deals in

our back pocket when we can determine our own future. So when will any type of territorial-wide discussions in terms of the next steps to these two important things? Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Premier.

**Further Return To Question 497-15(4): Resource Revenue Sharing And Post-Devolution Plans**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I hope to have that kind of discussion on an ongoing basis. I can't predict exactly how fast resource revenue sharing arrangements will be negotiated, or devolution completed and so on. But, Mr. Speaker, I intend in the meantime that we continue to have a lot of open dialogue. We have opportunities; we have the Circle of Northern Leaders meeting coming up in April. I meet regularly with the regional aboriginal leadership. We have the Association of Communities who we meet with at least once a year, probably twice a year on average, or more. We meet with the communities, Mr. Speaker. I hope that we, as a Legislative Assembly, look at another NWT Day in Ottawa to involve people in that.

---Applause

So, Mr. Speaker, there will be a lot of opportunity for us to involve the people in the North. We have proposals that are put forward connecting Canada from coast to coast to coast, Corridors II. So, Mr. Speaker, there's going to be ongoing discussion and I'll be sure that we do involve all of our constituents to the extent possible as we move ahead with this. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 497-15(4): Resource Revenue Sharing And Post-Devolution Plans**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I heard once in a negotiation meeting that in order to get to the Promised Land you have to negotiate your way through the wilderness. So I'm hoping that Mr. Premier could negotiate us out of the wilderness to the Promised Land the North has always been looking forward to. So I want to ask the Premier, the Northern Strategy was much celebrated and a success of the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Premier what's the status of the Northern Strategy. Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Premier.

**Further Return To Question 497-15(4): Resource Revenue Sharing And Post-Devolution Plans**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the Northern Strategy was an agreement, a document that we were working on with the previous federal government. Mr. Speaker, we're now working with a new government. I've had the initial meeting with the Prime Minister and with the Minister of DIAND, and I expect that they are going to want to put their own vision on how they will work with us on development of the Northwest Territories. So, Mr. Speaker, I think we are going to look at a new arrangement yet to be determined by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. Written questions. Mr. Yakeleya, Member for Sahtu.

#### ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

##### Written Question 37-15(4): "Drop The Pop" Campaign

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social.

1. When will the communities/schools be eligible for funding to take the "Drop the Pop" challenge?
2. How much will each community/school be eligible for participation funding?
3. When will the "Drop the Pop" campaign be communicated to our communities/schools?
4. Will the communities receive recognition for participation in the campaign?

Thank you.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Yakeleya. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Petitions. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. Mr. Roland.

#### ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

##### Tabled Document 102-15(4): 2006-2009 GNWT Business Plans

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three items for tabling. I wish to table the following document entitled 2006-2009 GNWT Business Plans.

##### Tabled Document 103-15(4): List Of Inter-activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 For The Period April 1, 2005, To December 31, 2005

As well, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 32.1(2) of the Financial Administration Act, I wish to table the following document entitled Inter-activity Transfers exceeding \$250,000 for the period April 1, 2005, to December 31, 2005.

##### Tabled Document 104-15(4): GNWT 2004 Public Service Annual Report

As well, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled GNWT 2004 Public Service Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. McLeod.

##### Tabled Document 105-15(4): Transportation Of Dangerous Goods Act 2005 Annual Report

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I have two documents to table. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act 2005 Annual Report.

##### Tabled Document 106-15(4): 2004-2005 Community Initiatives Program Annual Report

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to table the following document entitled 2004-2005 Community Initiatives Program Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Braden.

##### Tabled Document 107-15(4): Package Of Correspondence Regarding YWCA Contribution Agreement

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table correspondence from the executive director of the YWCA to the Honourable Michael Miltenberger dated December 27<sup>th</sup> of last year, and previous correspondence concerning the issue of pay and benefits for non-government organizations delivering government programs, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 16, Bill 19, Committee Report 8-15(4). Colleagues, before I place you into Committee of the Whole, by the authority given the Speaker by Rule 11, I hereby appoint Mr. Hawkins to act as deputy chair of Committee of the Whole for the remainder of the sitting.

Further, by authority given the Speaker, by Motion 9-15(4), Committee of the Whole may sit beyond the hour of adjournment until it is prepared to report, with Mr. Pokiak in the chair.

#### ITEM 16: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Good morning. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Chair, the committee would like to consider the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2005-2006, as well as the Tobacco Control Act. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** At this time, we will take a short break for lunch. Thank you.

----SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Good afternoon. I will call the Committee of the Whole back to order here. We are going to deal with Bill 19. At the present time, Members we will stand down consideration of the preamble, clauses and schedule...I'm sorry. Does committee have any opening comments with regard to Bill 19?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** I am pleased to introduce Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2005-2006. This bill requests authority for additional appropriations of \$31.994 million for operations expenditures and \$1.189 million for capital investment expenditures in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.



The request for operations expenditures, net of offsetting revenues, exceeds the supplementary reserve reported in the 2006-2007 Main Estimates by \$5 million. However, the GNWT will still remain within the guidelines set by the fiscal responsibility policy for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Major items included in this request for operations expenditures are:

1. \$15 million for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to provide contribution funding to communities pursuant to the community capacity building initiative. These contributions are funded by the federal government's Northern Strategy trust fund.
2. \$4.3 million for increased costs resulting from the rise in fuel prices in the NWT since 2003;
3. \$3.9 million for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to provide contribution funding to communities for eligible infrastructure projects under the Gas Tax Agreement with the federal government.

That concludes my opening remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in witnesses.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Does committee agree? Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Can you introduce your witnesses, please?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Joining me today is the secretary to the Financial Management Board, Mr. Lew Voytilla.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you. We are dealing with Bill 19 at the present time. We will stand down consideration of the preamble, clauses and schedule, and deal with the detail on a page-by-page basis. Can we turn to page 5? Page 5, Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$95,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total department, \$95,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Page 6, Executive, operations expenditures, Executive offices, not previously authorized, \$1.210 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total Executive offices, \$1.210 million. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Chairman, thank you. One of the details on this page is listed as a \$14,000 contribution providing increased funding to the Status of Women

Council of the Northwest Territories for additional costs associated with the implementation of salary increases.

Mr. Chairman, at various times in this session, we have talked about our government's responsibilities to various boards and agencies and organizations that deliver services to us and this detail very specifically identifies one of these organizations, or, sorry, two of the organizations, the Status of Women Council and the Native Women's Association, as being eligible for increased contributions for salary increases comparable to the GNWT public service.

Mr. Chairman, as these types of organizations, I certainly am in support of this allocation, but what I'm wondering about is how do we differentiate between these two organizations, the Status of Women Council and the Native Women's Association, as opposed to other organizations such as the YWCA, the NWT Literacy Council, the NWT Association of Families? Why are they not included in this supp for similar allocations for salary increases, again pegged to what we have agreed to for our own civil service? So can the Minister give me some explanation as to why these two organizations are identified and not others, Mr. Chairman?

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the area that was raised earlier about the third-party accountability framework, what we've done in the Financial Management Board, trying to deal with the concerns about forced growth in some of these areas, as we established third-party funding criteria and established the three categories. The first category involves those agencies or boards that are legislatively mandated for the provision of core public programs and services. So that would be the first area that we would look at. As well in that area we look at cost elements that are highly defined and maintain the competitiveness and capacity, and operations are critical to the stability and continuity of programs delivered. So there are a number of areas that we look at and that would be the...Category one is the one where we would look at applying forced growth.

The other two, category two and category three, is something we would look at, and then there's some judgement in what a category two might be versus going into category one level programs. But we established this criteria and looked at the roles that are out there and came up with this level of area where we feel we could support the forced growth portion. Thank you.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Okay. So what other agencies, Mr. Chairman, would be included in this category one, which I understand these are organizations which would automatically get a comparable increment to our public service. Are there any other agencies or organizations of this nature, Mr. Chairman?

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as our process works, under forced growth those that do end up into category one would have the

ability through their processes and negotiations and substantiation put in through their appropriate department's requests for forced growth and that would be considered through the normal budgetary process. One of the other organizations, for example, is the housing authorities. Those have been put into the category one area. We do have some information here, and it would take a bit of work to go through it to pull out all the specific ones, but it would be areas like that where they're delivering a direct service in the sense that we would be doing as a government. So housing authority and public housing areas, those are areas delivering on behalf of the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Well, okay, this is, I guess we're straying more into an area here of policy, Mr. Chairman, rather than direct consideration of the budget here. I guess, you know, the Minister said there is some discretion connected with what then is a category two or category three organization and where I'd like to see our government being more proactive is to direct each department to really proactively look at all of the boards or agencies or NGOs that we contract with to deliver programs on our behalf and strive to bring forward new allocations or new requests for funding, as the Minister just explained happened with these two organizations, these two women's organizations. Can each department be directed to look at the contracts we have and consider whether or not new funding allocations could be brought forward as soon as possible so that we can try on an urgent basis, I would say, Mr. Chairman, on an urgent basis, to begin bringing those contract organizations up to some kind of parity with our own wage increases? Would the Minister be able to consider that? Thank you.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess just before I get into it, a word of caution about wage parity with our unions. One of the things we look at with forced growth, wages are a part of it, but there's a whole number of factors that come into this area and as we have setting up this criteria, we've just done this for this 2006 business plan process and we can look at going into the next business plan cycle to look at this criteria and seeing how other organizations may fit into this as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Page 6, Executive, operations expenditures, executive offices, \$1.21 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total executive offices, \$1.21 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Page 7, Financial Management Board Secretariat, client services, not previously authorized, \$1.239 million. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that, I understand these expenditures are for the increasing dental premiums and medical travel assistance. Is that

right? I'd like to get some information on what the explanation is for these increases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what we've done in this area under client services now, we've pulled all the resources or people, as well as the program, into one area. We've come up with a shortfall in the area of medical travel assistance of just over a million dollars, \$1.096 million, as well as dental premiums of \$143,000. Other departments had within their ability to fund some of the over-expenditures. If you broke this out between all departments, they had some flexibility there, but within Financial Management Board, after pulling these in we have little room for this type of flexibility. That's why we've come forward with a request for this funding. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. So I'm understanding that this is the government spending on government employees as a government employer, not as the government as the health service provider under the Department of Health budget. Is that right?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Ms. Lee is correct. It is for our employees. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. There are two issues with that. I guess one larger issue of health care delivery in general in that I know that the Minister of Health and Social Services had introduced aspects to the policy that was to work to reduce costs or at least better coordinate medical travel. I think he implemented a plan that sort of streamlined at least the authorizing process for medical travel, I think in the hopes of having better control over the medical travel in general. I understand that this is the employer's portion of it. So I'd like to know if the Minister of Finance or Minister of Health could indicate whether that system, in general, is working and that that is not contributing to the increase we are seeing here.

The second issue, the Minister of Finance indicated that this is the kind of cost that used to be absorbed by each human resource section of each department and now that all the human resources sections have been amalgamated that it's been all added up into a bigger pot and making it impossible or not able anymore for the departments to find from within. But accepting that as the case, it still raises the question about the fact that in the past years, there was that sort of money floating around where the government could absorb these costs on their own budget. That raises questions about how much control we really have over this budget if different departments can come up with pockets of money that could add up to this amount of money, given that we're to understand that all these used to be absorbed from within.

Let me just restate those two questions. One is, whether anything that the Minister of Health has implemented has helped in any way to reduce medical travel costs or dental, or what portion of this is due to rising costs of the travel itself. The second thing is about what does he have to say about the capacity within the government to observe this amount of money in previous years? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our employees fall under the same work that's happening with medical travel and the work that's being done by the Department of Health and Social Services. So employees that have to go through and receive or, I guess...What would be the term? Referral. Yes. Referral from a doctor down to Stanton or a specialist, that would still follow through the process of Health and Social Services that's applied. I guess we can say that although it's underway, we think that is helping the situation a bit. What we find the costs are increasing around is areas of the airline service itself, the fees there; accommodation costs; as well as more referrals as we have more employees that need assistance through the medical system. That is the reason for the higher cost in this area. It will fluctuate depending on the health of our employees. That is something more difficult to predict. We can lay out the trends and use an estimate, as has been in the past, and come fairly close. But there are, from time-to-time, years where we will encounter a larger surge of employees requiring the needs of the medical profession. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. I wonder if the Minister could tell us how much of this increase...We're looking at \$1.2 million more than what was budgeted in 2005-2006 budget. The Minister is indicating that some of that has to do with more than expected use. I guess those things could happen, but I'd like to know, I think the million shortfall is quite large and if he could say anything about why the budget was so underestimated. Does the new budget reflect that increase?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I did give out some of the reasons for why we feel there's an increased cost. One, departments were able to cover some of the shortfall from their own budgets. But for more of the detail, I'll have Mr. Voytilla provide that level of information.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Voytilla.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has already pointed out that this budget used to be split up among departments and they all funded this themselves. We had a significant increase, though, in medical travel costs in 2004-2005. It went from about \$2.8 million the year before to about \$3.9 million in one year. That was about a 30 percent increase, which was a fairly dramatic increase over one year. Departments were never, because that only happened in 2004-2005, we never adjusted their budget for that change before we did

the HR amalgamation. So they only had funding to transfer into the FMBS in the amount of about \$2.8 million, which is the budget that we set up for this year. But in fact, the peak, if you will, in medical travel, or the large increase in medical travel occurred in 2004-2005 and we're, at this point in time, researching the records for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 to determine exactly what was the cause of that increase. We can attribute it, as the Minister has pointed out, to airfare increases and accommodation increases and just the number of referrals. But we want to have a more in depth understanding of what drove that significant budget increase in 2004-2005 so that for future forecasting, we can assess that and be not only more accurate in our forecasting, but allow us to assess whether or not there's some changes or some things we should be looking at with respect to the program that would mitigate costs. So that work is going on at this point in time; however, I expect it will be a few months yet before we're able to conclude anything and report it to the House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you on that. That's fair enough. I'd be interested in looking at what the department finds out in that regard and see what happened there and what we find out. I guess this is an FMBS issue and not a Health and Social Services issue and I would like to ask the Minister to report to us through AOC or something. It would be interesting to know what happened there. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will do that. Once we have this work done, we will be glad to meet with Members and provide the information and some plans of how we might be able to deal with some of these costs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Next I have Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Voytilla started to answer the questions that I had on his last answer. He pointed out the \$2.8 million where the rising costs went to \$3.9 million. I'm just trying to get a sense of...Well, it's a significant increase and I guess I wonder, does our 2006-2007 budget address some of these shortfalls? I mean, in essence are we under funding this sort of policy and premium at this time and will we be challenged with a new supp before us sometime in the new budget year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this increase that we're asking for here does cover the 2005-2006 fiscal year, but we have not made adjustments in the 2006-2007 fiscal year. After the work is done on reviewing this, doing some of the tracking of historical data there, we'll have a better idea of where we think we'll need to be and at that time come forward with a request for more funds if that's the case. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious if we could explore the comments made by the Minister about the shortfalls made up by the departments. When was the signal to the Minister or the department of FMB about the shortage and the fact that they were covering it through alternative means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Voytilla can provide that level of detail as the work around budget preparations when we had started to realize there was a shortfall. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Voytilla.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We became aware of the potential problem here last summer when we started to work with the departments on the budget transfers associated with the human resources amalgamation. So we became aware that there could be a shortfall in this area at that point in time. We weren't sure whether or not 2004-2005 was an anomaly, though, because of the sharp increase in that year or whether it was likely to be sustained. Our current year-to-date spending trends show that, indeed, it looks like it will be sustained and so that's why we need this supp. But it's also why we're so motivated to go back over the records of the last two years and see what's driving that increase.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess if I could trouble them to restate, although they sort of answered this before, but if I could trouble the Minister to restate when it's expected that they'll have the 2005-2006 numbers up to date and to give us a full sense of what's being carried forward, the problem, and in the sense of who we can work forward to make this adjustment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we stated, it would take us a few months to do our work where we feel we could be in a position to provide Members more information on whether we think we'll have to make another adjustment for the 2006-2007 budget. As the normal process is, after year-end we'll have to go through the normal works of our budgeting exercise to come up with year-end numbers and after that we'll then be able to come back with the results of the 2005-2006 year. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular case, obviously we have an agreement in place and we have to ensure that it's funded properly, which I have no concern with that issue. The concern I think I would have is, and this is what I'm asking for, is a commitment from the Minister whereas when we notice these anomalies and they may not be specific to, for example, Collective Agreement issues where dental

premiums are under funded or whatnot. It could be a whole array of issues. But when we notice anomalies like this and, as stated by Mr. Voytilla, was noticed last summer when they were building the 2006-2007 budget, I'm wondering if the Minister could commit today to start sending us a letter to inform us that there should be large anomalies that we should be expecting in advance. One could perceive this anywhere from eight to nine months after it was noticed and we're only seeing a dollar figure before us now. It's not a difficult issue to pass on my side or my perspective; I have no problem with it. It's only the concern of notice from a Regular Member's point of view. It's the old, by the way, we weren't funding this properly, guess what, we have a \$1.2 million bill that came out of nowhere, but all along it was being funded internally. I guess all I'm asking from the Minister is that we can consider a best practice that when we notice anomalies like this, he could give the Accountability and Oversight committee a bit of a heads up so we can foresee these things coming, and that way they're not a bit of a shock to either the system or whatnot, or surprise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think we already have in place a fairly good system of informing Members when we have to make changes in the budget process, as well as request more funding. As stated in this case, as we became aware of it and started looking at this, started to do some of the review in this area working with departments, we've come to the point where we know we will not have the room within FMBS for 2005-2006 fiscal year to absorb this type of spike in the budget itself. Yes, the Member is right; between areas where it is, for example in this case, part of the union agreements we have and other areas where it does not fall into those categories, we can try to mitigate some of those costs in other areas. If, again, it ultimately comes down to the department's ability to fund and if there's to be any changes from within departments, there's that reporting process and requirement through to Members, as well. So we can work with what we have in place, I believe, to work with Members to keep them informed of changes in budget areas as we become aware of them and do our substantiation as to why they're happening. Of course, we know when we do inform Members of changes, we get questions as to why these things are occurring, so we have to do our work, as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Page 7, Executive, operations expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, client services, not previously authorized, \$1.239 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total Financial Management Board Secretariat, \$1.239 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total department, not previously authorized. \$2.449 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Page 8, Finance, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$4,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Bureau of Statistics, not previously authorized, negative \$992,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$996,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Page 9, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, community operations, not previously authorized, \$4.792 million. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of this allocation refers to some disaster assistance for the charter community of K'ahsho Gotine resulting from some flooding last spring during the break-up. There is \$1.006 million booked for this. Mr. Chairman, part of the detail here says that up to 85 percent of these costs will be recovered through the federal government's disaster financial assistance arrangement and I wanted to see what kind of certainty there is to recovering up to 85 percent of this. That would be about \$850,000, a fair amount of money. Can the Minister provide some comment to the certainty of this recovery, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Voytilla can provide that level of detail. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Voytilla.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal policy is a long-standing federal policy that's in place and as long as the expenditures that were incurred were compliant with that policy, our understanding is that reimbursement is assured. We've been working with the federal government, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs have been working with the federal government to ensure that the nature of the expenditures that we incurred would be eligible. So our understanding is that the 85 percent, give or take a bit, is pretty much assured.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Chairman, thank you. Does the GNWT then have a policy regarding disaster relief or disaster assistance to communities? If we can recover 85 percent from the federal government under compliant costs, is the balance, at least of this expenditure, which would be around \$150,000, covered by policy somewhere, or is this a one of a kind issue-by-issue consideration, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for our own policy and the requirements of that, if we can have the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs provide that information.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, our policy as per our agreement with the federal government allows us to recruit up to 85 percent of these expenditures. In the case of Good Hope, it was towards eight houses that were damaged by flood and there was severe contamination by sewer and other chemicals in that area. They were declared unfit for human habitation. We decided to pay for 100 percent of the repairs and allow the homeowners to go back to the houses. These people didn't have HAP houses, so we will be paying for anything over and above 85 percent. Our policy only allows us to recoup 85 percent from the federal government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Chair, not to sound mean spirited here, but do we put any onus at all, or any part of the responsibility or cost, however accidental it may be, on the people who own these houses or who have lost property? I think, as I heard the Minister say, we are shouldering 100 percent. Does that include the contents? For instance, vehicles, snow machines, boats or anything else that was lost? Are we still picking up 100 percent of that loss, Mr. Chair?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we are covering 100 percent of the costs to upgrade the house to bring it to a standard where they can move back into the units. We are also ensuring that the houses are now at the 100 year high water mark. These people that own these houses did not have any other avenue. They lacked the resources to address the situation. I suppose we could have let them go and leave these houses contaminated. They would have been written off, but that didn't change the situation, so we decided to pay for 100 percent of the cost of bringing these houses up to a standard where they could move back in. We are recouping 85 percent of it, so we are shouldering the other portion of it.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you. Again, we are going into some policy area here, and maybe it is something that I will take up at another time in more detail, but I am interested in how consistent this policy is across various losses or disasters or people who lose cabins and things due to forest fires, floods and various things of this nature. Unless the Minister cares to offer some comment, does disaster loss of any kind enable the victims to be able to get 100 percent of costs covered by the government? Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as laid out, the process we fall under when it comes to a natural disaster or a disaster in this area where a flood had occurred, the policy and the arrangement of the federal government is that they would cover 85 percent of the cost. Beyond that, normally, again, a person's own household insurance there, that area we would expect would cover the rest of the loss in that area. In this case, as we were informed at the time and made the decision to support the initiative to cover the rest of the cost, is that this case would not have done us any positiveness in the community in the sense that, if we did not do the work to cover the additional costs for repairing homes, we would end up having to put people into new homes in a sense of further either in public housing or new housing through the Housing Corporation program. So it was felt that this case with the covering of 85 percent by the federal government, we could cover the remainder and still put people back into their own homes. The rest of the items they would have to cover on their own. In the process, we were focussing on the homes themselves.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you. One or two items further on this page, Mr. Chair, \$180,000 of provision for some contamination recovery at the old swimming pool site in Fort Providence. Mr. Chair, I am wondering if this is the end of this story. Are we potentially gearing up for something that is going to have additional costs, Mr. Chair?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Right now we are dealing with community operations. But in regards to Mr. Braden's question, I can...Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$180,000. Mr. Braden had a question there. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In this area here where the contamination was found when the swimming pool was being taken down, there are additional remediation costs that will likely occur in the springtime, so the total costs are unknown at this point. This is the initial piece. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As to the cause or the responsibility for the contamination in the first place, I know that in many community sites around the Northwest Territories, due to activities from years ago and decades ago under different owners or different parties, there are previous liabilities. Are we looking into whether or not there is a potential liability that could be assessed to previous owners or occupancy of this site, Mr. Chair?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We suspect the department will be looking into that area. The source of contamination in this old site was due to fuel oil, I believe. I believe the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs has more detail to that area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Chair, I guess to answer the first question about whether this money is enough to clean up the site, no. The Finance Minister has indicated there is more to do. We are not exactly sure the extent of the contamination. The swimming pool was built on a fuel storage site that was owned by the government. We are not sure if it was our government or the federal government. We are looking into that at this point. It may be significant; we don't know. The winter weather didn't allow us to explore far enough to see how badly the contamination was, but it is a huge area.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have taken up some allotment on this page here. To be fair to Members, I will turn it over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, community operations, not previously authorized, \$4.792 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Regional operations, special warrants, \$120,000, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$180,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Sport, recreation and youth, not previously authorized, \$400,000. Next I have Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would just like a little information on page 9 with the special warrants under regional operations. First, I believe this is the only special warrant in this complement package, and I wish to acknowledge that. As Regular Members, we don't like special warrants, so I am very pleased to see that. I should say up front, as well, is that I have no concern with us fronting the money because I see it as an issue with the short term, whereas the repairs need to be done to ensure that the community of Whati gets their community hall up and running and we can follow it up with a contractor. I am curious on why this came through the special warrant process. I ask that because I was in Whati when I was leading the northern group of the AOC consultation. That was at the beginning of September. I saw it for myself how bad and extensive the damage was. I am only curious on why this would be through...This problem has been known for a little while. I am just wondering why it has come through the special warrant process instead of the regular approval process like everything else is in the supplementary appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this area here, there was a fair bit of back and forth with the Department of Public Works and Services and Municipal and Community Affairs as well as the contractor in the community, as to who would have to cover these costs and what was required. It got to the point where we just had to proceed with the repairs. As the Member stated, when he had an opportunity to visit in the

community to see the state of it, it was not a satisfactory state. At some point, injury could be the result. So it was felt, at that point, that we just had to proceed with the work. There is other work continuing now around going back to see if we can get relief of any of the funds that we have had to spend. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. I should underscore that, although it was significantly close, the special warrant was well within the rules which is 14 days before, of course, this session. I just found it surprising that it is very close to that little period, if it was approved through their administrative Executive Council process through FMB, if it had been delayed a week, the approval, it would have gone through the Legislative Assembly through the normal process without requiring a special warrant. That is not to question the value of the project that is being considered or being taken care of here. That is not challenging that at all. I just find it strange that it has been a problem for some time and there has been a lot of going back and forth process. It was approved just in the timelines it was. It is not a criticism. The rules were followed. So I will underscore that. I just find it surprising; that is all.

The last line in the description says the department will recover the cost of the repairs from the contractor. Maybe if the Minister could provide some detail on that. Is that associated with holdback? Do they admit faults? Did we sue them? Will the cost that we will be receiving back from the contractor cover the cost to repair that floor? Thank you

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are attempting to get the recovery of those funds. The holdback that Public Works and Services had on the initial project is not sufficient to cover the amount of work that was required, so there is going to be an attempt made to recover the funds from the contractor that did the work at the time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Are we, at present, going to take them to court, or are they willing to cough up the difference between the holdback and the actual amount to repair this? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there are discussions still going on in this area as to what avenue we would take. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. I am just following along into a different area as far as specific to the contractor, if they are providing faulty work, and I am not asking for the name. I don't think it is probably appropriate at this time to air that name, but was the contract organized, administered and run through the territorial government? I

know that the Tlicho people have some authority to do their own business on their own land. I am just wondering if this was a contractor that had gone through the territorial process. Will we be putting them on some type of notice if we have some difficulty if they refuse to repair the faulty work that they had done? If we are getting faulty work from them, I guess I sort of question why will we hire them in the future if they are resisting to pay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this project was undertaken quite some time ago initially. It was constructed over a number of years. It was a negotiated contract with oversight from Public Works and Services. They received substantial completion in May of 2004 where it was turned over to the community of Whati. It was in January of 2005 that the flooring became a problem and progressively worsened to the point of safety concerns were raised.

In our discussions with the contractor about the work and the need to do the right work, there was some initial activity done to try and remedy it. That did not fix the problem. In the meantime, as things happened with the Tlicho Government coming into effect and taking over the company that was involved, it has further complicated the matter. But we are in discussions again about where we need to go and try to recover these costs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I apologize if I am taking too much time up on this issue, but I saw the facility. It is a beautiful facility, but there weren't just problems with the floor. I seem to remember that the exterior had problems, as well. I hope those are being addressed at the same time. I just hate to think that a contractor went in there and we have to keep in mind that a contractor that does faulty work brings the whole industry down, especially if they run away from their responsibility. I think that is an insult to the good contractors that do good work and by us letting them go, or off the hook quite easily, I think we insult the industry because I think there are a lot of good contractors out there that ensure, to the best of their abilities, that quality products are built, followed up on and warranted. The issue I have with some concern is that this contractor may be able to sort of slip through the process or get away. I guess I am concerned because I saw the building. It is a beautiful building. It is a shame the floor looks pathetic. It shouldn't. It should be a beautiful floor. There are problems with the siding. I have concern that we are going to spend big dollars. Sorry; big dollars were spent and no warranty on that. The poles out front, there were a lot of little things. I just want to ensure that this building will be completed properly as it was originally designed. I want us to take notice and take note of this contractor, whoever they may be, and consider this for the future. If they start continuing bidding on tenders and demand negotiated tenders, it shouldn't matter who they are. It shouldn't matter if they are non-aboriginal or an aboriginal contractor. It doesn't matter. The fact is if they are providing faulty work, we should really take this seriously and say why are we going through this process? Because if they are not willing to pony up, when they did something wrong, and repair it, I feel that they have let us down and they have let the community down in the long run. I can

only imagine that this facility is not being used by this community. I don't know for details, but I think this community is being denied a facility that they deserved and they sort of got...Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is all I have at this time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Maybe I can just remind members to be very cautious in terms of when you talk about contractors when you are speaking. Mr. Roland, do you have any comments to make?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we have our processes in place when it comes to disputes with contractors. I have laid out what the intention is from our government's side, and our focus in this area was to repair the flooring situation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Next I have Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question on the sport, recreation and youth for \$400,000. I just would like to get some information on why we have seen the kind of increase from the projected budget on the Arctic Winter Games budget. Mr. Chair, I obviously support the work and mandate of Arctic Winter Games, so that is not the issue here, but I just want to know if some anomaly or something extraordinary happened that caused such a big increase in the budget. I understand that the regional trials travel, for example, was budgeted for \$92,000, but now we are projecting \$195,000. So that is a variance of \$103,000 which is more than 100 percent of what was budgeted. The territorial travel budget component is not too bad. It went over by \$65,000 and that could happen over a \$257,000 budget, but the other item that should raise some questions is in regards to Arctic Winter Games travel in general. It was budgeted for \$266,000. We are projecting \$226,000 more at \$492,000 which is not quite 100 percent of what was budgeted, but quite substantial. I am in support of the games, but I just want to know if the Minister could share some information as to what transpired there. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the area for 2006 Arctic Winter Games trials, what we found, and I have been informed of, was that the regional participation had increased significantly. That is part of the larger portion of the increased cost as well as the high cost of fuel which affects the charters that were used getting athletes to and from the centres where the trials were happening. As well, for example, in the Beaufort-Delta with the closure of the Inuvik high school which has a gymnasium, it would have helped in the delivery of this. It caused some problems where they had to get out to other communities and use other facilities, as well as the Liard ferry situation. When that was closed, it added additional expense in the travel budget area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Lee. Thank you. Page 9, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Community operations, not previously authorized, \$4.792 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Regional operations, special warrants, \$120,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$180,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Sport, recreation and youth, not previously authorized, \$400,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Page 10, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, School of Community Government, not previously authorized, \$15.090 million. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have just a short question on this issue of Northern Strategy trust fund money. I am happy to see that a number of communities have taken the step to tap into this funding. I am sure there are other communities to come here. I just would like to know, because I do not have any information about what sort of projects are being funded under this program. I just want to know what is going on in communities with this Northern Strategy money. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Northern Strategy money that we're flowing out to communities for their use, we have set some guidelines as to impact on future expense by government. I gave them a fair bit of latitude as to what they have selected as being important to them and where they would identify this money for, what they would identify the money for. We've got a number of examples of projects that have rolled in. For example, on the Hay River Reserve, they are looking at an harbour, a cultural camp, recreation equipment, and an adult education centre. They are looking to expand their day care and come up with a community comprehensive community plan, work on their commercial cooking facilities and some training. Fort McPherson is looking at expansion of their community complex as well as government offices and youth elders' interpretive centre. In Whati, they are looking at things like community capacity building, hydro project work, youth centre, and boardroom equipment. In Gameti, they are looking at design and build of some traditional cabins, convert an old gym into a community workshop type of work. Wrigley is looking at equipment itself, repair equipment, fuel dispensers for jet B fuel, a possible sawmill and a community hall, some money towards that. So there is an idea of where communities are putting some money. As those plans roll in, they will provide us with those types of details. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Page 10, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, community government, \$15.090 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.



**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total department, special warrants, \$120,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$20.462 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Page 11, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$598,000. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Chair, I think this is the first time in this bill that the information comes up about the rise in fuel prices and the impact it is having on our current year's budget. People will remember, with some horror and trepidation, Mr. Chair, the way fuel prices skyrocketed last summer and fall. We are now seeing the impact of it on our operations. I believe this whole supp here, the cumulative impact on various departments is \$4.3 million in unforeseen fuel costs. In this particular page, \$281,000 attributed to or connected with Public Works and Services' issues.

Mr. Chair, I have several questions in this area. To begin with, the information provided says that this is a request for funding resulting from the rise in fuel prices in the NWT since 2003. How is it, Mr. Chair, if we are looking at a supp for the budget of the fiscal year 2005-06, we are going back three fiscal years here, Mr. Chair?

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in the area of the fuel prices in the NWT, the Member is correct; the cumulative impact of this supplementary appropriation in fuel prices is almost \$4.3 million. The area where we talk about impact from 2003 is we haven't given departments an ongoing increase, so what we have dealt with them in other ways is to give them a one-time offset or a partial offset to that, but not have adjusted budgets since 2003. We did a price comparison since the year 2003 to 2005-06 and now, measuring that impact, we have agreed that we will have budgets adjusted to match the 2005 numbers. So what we are seeing is, because even though there was some offset in the past, it was one time and it didn't adjust their budgets. It gave them a bit of relief in that area. So what we have had to do now is to actually make the increase increment from the price of fuel back to 2003 to what it is now in this supp going forward, 2005. We have had to make those adjustments for the departments. Thank you.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, what sort of prevented or stopped the Minister or the government from making actual adjustments and putting appropriate fuel cost increments into the budgets? It seems unusual that we let something lag for as much as three years making sort of stopgap corrections for here and there, but for three years, Mr. Chair, we just sort of let this one slosh around and we are now finally actually making a true adjustment. It seems a little unusual from the fiscal policy point of view or fiscal prudence, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister, please.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, we did provide departments relief through previous supplementary appropriations to cover their increased costs for I guess a certain time period where we'd come to a position where we had to increase our budgets without adjusting the long term. It was felt at the time that because of the volatility of the market, that we had to give it some time to see if, in fact, things were going to continue to climb or settle down. As we see it now, the prices did get very high there for a bit and have come down a certain degree, but we feel, at this point, it will remain at a higher level than was previously adjusted for and we've now come forward making the request to go forward on this.

I guess, as well, we should indicate in this area what we've done is we're adjusting the budgets for departments. We've given them this year's requests, but we've advised departments that they will get 50 percent of this increase going into the next budget year, but we expect them to make some changes in their operations around the use of energy to make up the rest of the difference. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything further, Mr. Braden?

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay, I think I have a handle. So it was the sort of the price of volatility. I like what I just heard, Mr. Chairman, in that departments have been extended, if you will, half of the forecasted increment, but some obligation has been put on them to find ways to avoid or replace the other half. I like that. That's putting some responsibility on managers toward our energy agenda.

Mr. Chairman, when it comes to dealing with the fuel and the volatility of it, we just went through a bill earlier in this session directed toward the petroleum products division, which would enable them to do some, I don't know if I've got the right words here, some forward purchasing, some price hedging, and enable us to get some more control over the cost of fuel products that we put into our PPD communities. Do we have any similar mechanism whereby, say, the district education authority operating under our watch can cut a fuel supply deal, a forward looking fuel supply deal and lock some prices in? I guess what I'm asking for here is, are we really using every tool in our toolkit to get some predictability to use forward purchasing mechanisms and become more aggressive on our fuel pricing or our fuel cost issues, Mr. Chairman? Are we doing everything that we can here, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Minister Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the Member pointed out, within this sitting we just passed a bill that would allow the petroleum products division within Public Works and Services to buy futures, as we would call them I guess, price hedging on the futures market on the commodities we need for our communities. That does give us, I guess, more tools in our toolbox to be able to try and lessen the impact of increased costs for fuel in the communities served by the petroleum products division. There is some risk in that. For example, if we just use the previous year's

occurrence, the price for a lot of our products, we know the trend for when increased prices come in and when they start to settle back down again. But this last year that we operated in and last summer we saw a lot of spikes and increases when traditionally it was fairly quiet. If we'd bought at a time when prior to that, we probably would have been pretty good. We would be okay in that area, but if we'd bought just as the market was climbing, and as we've seen now the market is starting to come back down, then we'd be on the other side of the equation. So it is a further tool. There is some risk to it and we're going to have to ensure as we prepare for our next resupply situation that we're watching the market to see if in fact there's a trend going one way or another, and if it would be wise to buy futures in that time, or would it be wise just to wait until we get closer to the date. I mean, there's some flexibility in the timelines we can do this. It's a matter of months to -- I could be corrected on this -- 18 months. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister Roland. Mr. Braden, please.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you. So say for our regular government departments, the housing authority through ECE, through schools, hospitals, et cetera, in order to use this futures option, would we also have to pass more legislation or other legislation enabling those agencies to do that on our behalf, or as we just did with PPD? How would that work, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Minister Roland, please.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the reference to the previous bill might have some impact on us. It wouldn't be in those communities that are served by the petroleum products division. Where we get our fuel and bring it into the community that would have an impact on our schools and our health facilities in a sense that if we've got a better price, then that affects that community. Where we are in the communities that are serviced by the private sector, that would have no impact. Thank you

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister Roland. Page 11, Public Works, operations expenditures, asset management, \$598,000, total department, \$598,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Page 12, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$716,000, community health programs, \$752,000, total department, \$1.468 million. Mr. Braden, please.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Chairman, under community health programs just shy of a half million dollars is identified for contributions to additional costs associated with the increased number of children receiving services under the Child and Family Services Act and to providing services for children in southern facilities due to an increase in the number of placements. This is quite a...It's a lot of money on its own and I'm wondering if the Minister could give us some idea in terms of percentage or ratio this, as I say, almost half a million dollars, how much of an increment is this in what was forecasted for this particular area here, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Minister Roland, please.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our information was total area including all health authorities and the department falls in the area of \$6.7 million. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. So a bit under 10 percent. I guess I'm wondering what is the cause of this? Is this a trend? You know, when you look at the dollar amount here, a half a million dollars worth of additional un-forecasted services for children in care, it seems to me that it represents a lot of kids having difficulty. What's the cause? Is this a trend? Are we going to be seeing continued sustained increases in this area? Can the Minister shed some light on what's causing this, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Voytilla, please.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's two items here that the Member is referring to. One is just a number of children in care increasing, which is the \$240,000, and then there's \$227,000 for the costs associated with specific children placed in southern placements. The southern placements of 227, there's actually a specific to children that were placed this year and the funding increase associated with that. Overall, \$240,000 for children in care pertains to an increasing trend in the number of the children in care and the costs of dealing with that. Based on the information that the departments have provided us about the growth rate, the growth rate in the last number of years has been significant. In 2002-03 there was a total of 911 children receiving services. In 2003-04 it was 935. In 2004-05 it was 1,009. So what we're seeing is a trend increase in the number of children in care and that's leading to these increased costs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Chairman, okay, so we have some explanation of the numbers here is the cause. What's going on in communities, in families, in societies, or is it in the way we are enforcing or intervening? Do we have new laws or something that's causing this surge? That's what I'd like to get a little bit of understanding of, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health and Social Services may be able to provide more of that background as to the specific causes, or at least the best estimate under the department's case, the causes for these type of increases. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister Roland. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the fundamental issue, of

course, is children in need of service and often protection. It's done in a number of ways. The laws were changed a number of years ago so that it didn't always require the children be taken into care, but there is foster care arrangements, there's support and services to parents and families while a child is in care, there's just general services to children, youth and their families if their child requires service but remains in the family home, there's adoption subsidies to support special needs of a child who was in permanent custody of the director of family and children services, which is the special needs children. So there's a number of voluntary support agreements trying to assist parents, as well, as they deal with children that may have behavioural problems or some other challenges that they're trying to deal with. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Braden.

**MR BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. I'm on page 12, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$716,000, community health programs, not previously authorized, \$752,000, total department, \$1.468 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. Page 13, Department of Justice, operations expenditures, community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$464,000, total department, \$464,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. Page 14, NWT Housing Corporation, operations expenditures, NWT Housing Corporation, not previously authorized, \$56,000, total department, \$56,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. Page 15, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$1.874 million, income security, \$2.749 million, total department, \$4.623 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. Page 16, Department of Transportation, operations expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$721,000, highways, \$658,000, page 17, continued, ferries, not previously authorized, \$565,000, total department, \$1.944 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. Page 18, Industry, Tourism and Investment, operation expenditures, economic development, not previously authorized, \$527,000, total department, \$527,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. Page 19, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, forest management, not previously

authorized, \$127,000, wildlife management, not previously authorized, \$57,000, total department not previously authorized, \$184,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Committee. Page 20, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital investment expenditures, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$874,000, total department, \$874,000. Committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. Page 21, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$315,000. I have Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, the funding for tenants' improvement. Is that our own building or is that someone else who owns that building, the Great Slave Medical House?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Roland, please.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it is a leased building.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister Roland. Mr. Yakeleya, please.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A leased building, so that's not our building, it's somebody else's building?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Minister Roland, please.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is another property. What we have done in the past as a government when we've entered into facilities and leased them, if we need to make changes in the structure or office space, or requirement for space, we would take that on and pay for those changes. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister Roland. Mr. Yakeleya, please.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. So is this a practice by this government to support these types of buildings that need improvements, or office space, or renovations, because I'm having a difficult time right now to know some double standards? So is this common practice that this building gets improved by this government to help out a landlord? Thank you.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the details of this change, maybe we can go to Minister Miltenberger on that. But it is common practice for the government, when it does lease facilities to make changes to those facilities for our own requirements, that we fund those changes. This particular amount that's allocated and requested is also being covered off by the agreement with the federal government, but for more details on the specific case, Minister Miltenberger could probably provide some more detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister Roland. Minister Miltenberger, please.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back in the year 2000 there was a fund agreed to at the First Ministers of Health meetings under their primary health care transition fund. About \$4.7 million was our share and there were 11 projects that were developed across the North. The program took a long time to unfold. One of the projects that was agreed to was to look at how do we advance our primary health care model, which would allow us to integrate our services at the community level with the nurse practitioners and the doctors and the nurses. Back then the plan was to do some modifications to the Great Slave Medical Clinic to in fact allow that to take place. That is what this is. It's a one-time, it was a pilot project and it was to do these program developments on a pilot basis. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, again, we've certainly seen some improvements needed in our smaller communities and it seems like it's not getting some of the attention that is needed. I'm trying to follow this process here and some of these buildings that are needed in the communities that need improvements that doesn't seem to make a good acceptable business case for Cabinet sometimes if they take it or leave it and then come back and say well it's not their building, they won't do anything to it or not their responsibility and it's up to the landlords. So I'm having a hard time in terms of something like this. It may be needed and it may be required and even to pay, even though it's funded partially by the Government of Canada, for these tenant's improvements just doesn't seem to cut it in the small communities in terms of any type of proper improvements or services and always come back with no money. You see something like this, it just doesn't feel good, even though they're going ahead with it, but two different levels of health care as far as I'm concerned. However, it's in the budget and that, so I just don't see the equalization of treatment of health care in the Northwest Territories. More of a comment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Roland, please.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the area we're looking at here and the work that's required, as Minister Miltenberger stated, comes into the area where 11 projects were looked at for a one-time fund. This was one of them. I understand where the Member comes from about the concern about delivery of health care services and competing projects and getting, I guess making the cut as to whether it proceeds or not. This area here, just to be clear so individuals out there don't feel like we're creating a two-tier system, this does not create a different level of service. Anybody needing the requirement for primary care or health care, you know, to the best of our ability are getting it out there in every community. But, yes, there's still a difference in that level of service when you're into the smallest communities that we have versus the larger communities where you have. For example, here in Yellowknife the territorial hospital versus a health centre in the smaller communities. So the level of service is different, but an individual going to one...Our goal is to ensure that they get the same level of

service and care if indeed the medical system to come to their aid. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. I think you have to go in the communities to see the kind of centres they have there and the kind of buildings they have to operate out of and you would see it right there. So we don't have to create that perception in terms of look at Colville Lake, look at their health centre, look at the equipment they have there and the type of needs that are required there. All things like that in the other smaller communities. So this is the reality in our health care system. Again, there's just different levels of services I guess in larger centres requiring more and more, I don't know what they require more of, but they seem to get it. The larger centres outside just seem to have a different level. We should be, I guess in some sense, happy that we have health care in our communities no matter what. It just seems to be that the playing field I guess is still different. So I'm just saying this more of a frustration I guess when I see something like this that gives extra dollars to a leased tenant for improvement of a medical centre here in Yellowknife, which may be justified, by all means justify. However, I think other centres outside here don't have the type of services that they should have. It's not even on here. So that's more of, Mr. Chair, my frustration of seeing a budget item like this.

Again, we're going to come up next year again. You'll see us in the House screaming for more dollars for our communities such as Colville Lake. You tell them that they have different levels of services. So that's, Mr. Chair, more or less my frustrations and it's more comments to the Ministers. I'll continue asking these questions when I see something like this. I mean, it's not fair. It's just not fair. So I'll leave it at that.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I could say at this point would provide little comfort to the Member in what we're doing with the request for this funding to be spent in this area, and he raises a lot of valid points and concerns about that level of service. Many of them, which would use as well when we have to ship a lot of our patients out of the territory because we can't provide a level of service that is found in the larger centres across Canada. It's unfortunately a fact of life in a lot of places. In the smaller places you go to, the level of service isn't the same as in the larger and we're having to face, as we dealt with earlier, sending some of our children out of the territory because we don't have facilities here. It is something we wrestle with when we make these types of improvements and request the authority to spend these dollars in these areas and it's going to be an ongoing issue that governments are going to have to deal with as to what level of service they can provide for our residents. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister. I now have Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short question. The Minister of Health indicated earlier that this is as a result of a pilot project being funded by the federal government and that there are 11 different projects. Did

he mean that there were other projects being funded under this program, and, if that's the case, where are those programs located? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister, please.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that level of detail with me. I'm not sure if the Minister of Health and Social Services has that at his station. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister. Minister Miltenberger, please.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't have the detail on the other projects. I know that there were 11 and they were across the regions across the North, but I could get that information for committee.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. If the Minister could give the breakdown of where these projects are and what they were for, to all the Members, I'd appreciate that very much. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll make sure we forward the information to the chair of Social Programs for her perusal.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Lee, anything further?

**MS. LEE:** No, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. I now have Mr. Pokiak, please.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to follow in line with what Mr. Yakeleya is saying, and I guess the first question I have is how long is the lease for this building. The second one is when the department found out it needed improvements to the building, why didn't they approach the landlord and say, look, can you improve the building to our standards that we require? The third question, Mr. Chair, is once the lease expires for this building, will the government have to put the building back to its previous setting? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Roland, please.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'll have to apologize if I don't get all three responses to his questions. I believe there were three. The first one is the lease is in effect until August 2008, with two further options to extend by one year to 2010.

In regards to the improvements to the facility, once we are concluded with the use of that facility, we would not return it back to its original state. We end up leaving the upgrades that were done.

I have to apologize; I missed the second question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. My second question was when government identified they needed improvements on the building, why didn't you just go to the landlord and say, look, can you add this on for us, at their cost? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Minister Roland, please.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as with all of our properties that we lease, when we originally go out for a lease requesting square footage and the type of environment we're looking for, we would do our initial improvements and upfitting, as we would call them, as departments go in there. Once that is established, it's straightforward and you renew on that basis from year to year. If there are requirements on our behalf for a chance in the use of that facility, then the department responsible would end up paying for those conversion costs or further upgrades for any changes to that agreement. So it is standard practice that with our leasing practices, as we go into a facility and do the original upfitting, as we call them, moving in departments, and any further changes would be the cost of the department. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister. Anything further, Mr. Pokiak?

**MR. POKIAK:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just one last question. How much does it cost annually to lease that building? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to provide that later. I don't have that information at my fingertips at this moment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister. Anything further, Mr. Pokiak?

**MR. POKIAK:** Yes. So if you can provide that information, I'd appreciate it, Mr. Minister. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. Page 21. Oh, sorry; Mr. Yakeleya, please.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** This tenant improvement is being offset by revenue from the Government of Canada, I believe. The Minister gave some indication to Health Canada. We get funding from Health Canada to do tenant improvements or do pilot projects, as Ms. Lee indicated, from the earlier question where we're going to get information from the Minister in terms of the breakdown and the pilot project. I understand that this is one-time funding, but it seems like we're ongoing in terms of this type of funding. So do we have specific funding revenue from the Government of Canada to do projects like that? My question is how come projects in small communities... Maybe I'll have to wait for more details in terms of Colville Lake does not get proper improvements to their facility. I could speak to other communities, but in my region only, in terms of this type of a pilot project, there's some question.

So I'll leave it at that, in terms of the revenue being sawed off by the Government of Canada. Why is this kind of revenue going to tenant improvement for a leased building that I think a tenant should be the one responsible? Why are we in the business of that? I certainly hope that we give some serious consideration for 2008. Otherwise, this will just open the door for each other community and region to have something like this. I call it a real sweet deal. Mr. Chair, that's more of a...I'm trying to find a question in there for the Minister. I'm still letting out some of my frustrations here in terms of this health care, what he's done in that. So I'm trying to understand it and it's confusing here. So the revenue I guess is in terms of do we have a specific revenue from Health Canada that says here's the projects, go to wherever you need to go and fill the criteria, and whatever reasons our communities were not advised that we have funding to improve their facilities, supplies, materials, get a part-time nurse in there, get whatever in there. So we have revenue that's offset by the Government of Canada to do a tenant improvement in health care, where other health care systems and our facility desperately needs them. I guess that's in an about way of getting to a question. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this primary health care transition fund, that Health Canada funded, was intended to improve access, accountability and integration of services as relates to the whole concept of primary care, and it allowed us in the Northwest Territories to advance 11 different projects, and we're going to get you that information. But the intent here was to look at program improvements.

When this was initially agreed to back in 2000, it was before we had nurse practitioners; it was before we had midwives; but it was when the concepts of integrated service delivery were being talked about and we were trying to figure out, between the doctors, the nurses and such, how do we do that. The improvements to the clinic, these particular improvements, were to allow that kind of integration so that there were adequate exam rooms and adequate facilities to allow nurse practitioners to start playing a role, to be able to allow the proper flow of clients and patients through the door. All the authorities were encouraged to put in their submissions, and there were 11 that were agreed to be funded by a committee that was struck. Once again, we'll get you that information.

So this was a territorial-wide initiative. In this case, it was to focus on how do we do business better with the doctors, the nurses; what were the newly-minted nurse practitioners; and since it has grown to add the midwives. I'd point out, as well, that we, as a government, have gone on to make our own commitments in terms of nurse practitioners and midwives and the integrated service delivery model which is a model that we set up for the whole Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Is this funding ongoing funding? I know the Minister said a one-time pilot project. Is this funding available next year and the year after? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Minister.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it is four-year funding, but it was started in...The negotiations started in 2002-2003. So the projects identified were identified. It was a one-time pot, but spread over a number of years. So it doesn't keep on coming back, that total amount. The total amount was \$4.7 million and was transferred over from the federal government, as the Minister of Health and Social Services stated. But it was a one-time fund that was spread over a number of projects. I believe this is the last piece of it, but the Minister of Health may have a little more detail on that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't add anything further at this point, but we'll get the information that committee requested.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Four point seven million dollars, when you look it, it's a big, huge pot when you're looking at the projects and authorities that were discussed. I believe at that time, we, Sahtu, were probably in the authority of the Inuvik Regional Health Board and now we've got our own health board. Certainly, we look at Inuvik as a big region; lots of needs there. It's negotiated so I really hope that this funding gets into the communities that desperately need improvements. Certainly we can really improve on the inadequate flow of doctors and nurses. Let's at least get a doctor in our region, doctors in our region, two doctors working in our region. Get some nurses in Colville Lake, proper nurses there that stay in there, housing.

I think we certainly fall well within that category, as the Minister outlined, in terms of the type of funding that should go for primary health care. You know, that's really key to the communities that don't have nursing stations or health services. I'm just still flabbergasted as why we are paying a tenant in Yellowknife here, basically of health, medical service, \$315,000 to improve what we don't even have in some of our communities and regions. I'm going to leave it, again, at that. Certainly people in Colville Lake are going to question this \$4.7 million and that money hasn't even touched the communities that desperately need it. Again that talks to the type of health care system we have in the Northwest Territories. It's not me, because I live in certain places where we do have a nurse, and I come to Yellowknife and there are some good services here. It's appreciated, I guess, in Yellowknife, but I guess when it comes to communities that don't have it, we shake our head when we talk about our priorities and taking care of our people.

So I'm going to leave it at that, but I'm still spewing my frustrations, I guess, in how this money is handled. It's a four-year sweet deal and these people who have this Great Slave medical building for tenant improvements, they've got a sweet deal. They certainly have a sweet deal and government's paying for it. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Roland, would you like to comment?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. More just to the fact of the upgrades that are listed here. As I stated earlier, when we, as a government, get into leases for either office space or clinical space, when we initially enter those agreements and move in, we, as a government, still pay the cost for fitting them up for use by the departments. As well, in mid-term if we decide to change the use of that facility or put additional requirements for the use of that facility, we again are responsible for them. So that is not a change in the way we've done things about the leases we have in place to date.

I understand the Member's frustrations about the practice and service levels in communities. So that aside, just particularly on the practice of our leases for space and the cost for either upgrading or fitting them up to the levels we require. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Yakeleya, anything else?

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for answering my frustrating questions. I'm beginning to understand and I hope to see in the future of this government give some priority to some of these communities that we represent as MLAs, because these questions here will be answered. We have to have some answers, as MLAs, to our people in the communities. I'm not here to defend government in terms of their spending. So I'm asking these needs in our communities. When you have all these services it's okay, but when you don't have them, that's when we bring up our concerns. So I'm going to leave it at that for now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'd now like to recognize Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Just one follow-up question. Could the Minister of Health indicate what the federal government's criteria was on choosing a facility and program? I don't know if that's the information that...I don't know that information, either. I'm not speaking from knowledge. But this particular facility at Great Slave sort of popped up and there were lots of renovations going on for awhile there, and I wonder if the Minister of Health could indicate what it was that the federal government was looking for in terms of criteria. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the criteria was fairly broad by Health Canada. It was to build, to promote and improve primary health care services, and there were proposals put forward by the different authorities to do different things. In Yellowknife the one project was to do this integrated service. In Fort Smith it was to help move midwifery along. The other ones, we're going to get the information. The decisions were made by us and we submitted our list as a government, as a system, to the federal government to get the funding to flow, which then took a number of years, as you can see by the timeline.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. If I could get some more detailed information about what the project guideline was from the federal government to qualify for this funding, along with information on the 11 projects from the Minister. I would really appreciate that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. When you see the information, it might ring a bell because it was put in all our business plans through the years as we developed the work, but we'll get that information for committee. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** (Microphone turned off)...budget. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you. Page 21, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$315,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$315,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Page 22, Justice, capital investment expenditures, community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, negative \$55,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$55,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Page 23, Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, wildlife management, not previously authorized, \$55,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$55,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Now can we go down to page 3. Now we will stand down the preamble and the clauses and deal with the schedule to Bill 19 on page 3. Schedule, supplementary amounts appropriated for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, part 1, vote 1, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$39.994 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Part 2, vote 2, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$1.189 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Total supplementary appropriation, \$33.183 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** To the schedule, agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you. Now we will go clause by clause. Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2005-2006, preamble.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Does committee agree that Bill 19 is ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Bill 19 is ready for third reading. At this time, I would like to thank Minister Roland. Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Members for their input in this. At this time, I also want to recognize joining me here at the table has been Mr. Voytilla and this will be the last defence of a monetary bill for the Members of this Assembly and for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Thanks a lot there, Mr. Voytilla. At this time, can the Sergeant-at-Arms kindly take Mr. Voytilla out?

---Laughter

Thank you. Next on the list is Bill 16. Before we continue on with Bill 16, can we take a 15-minute break?

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. I would like to go to the Minister for the Minister's opening comments. Minister Miltenberger, please.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act. This government is proud to bring forth legislation that builds upon and expands municipal bylaws and the existing Workers' Compensation Board regulations. I would like to recognize the hard work and thoughtful consideration of this bill by the Standing Committee on Social Programs. The committee's personal contributions in passing on the public's input has resulted in a bill that will help us greatly reduce the public's expose to second-hand smoke.

With this bill, we continue the process of denormalizing tobacco use in the Northwest Territories. Smoking will not be permitted in public areas and youth will face fines for purchasing tobacco and its accessories as will the storeowners who sell to them. Storeowners will also be required to remove all displays of tobacco and require identification from all young people prior to sale. This bill will greatly restrict the availability of tobacco to young people, act as a strong deterrent to those who would sell to youth, and limit the public's exposure to second-hand smoke as much as possible.

This bill represents our collective desire for a healthier people, embodies our aspirations for the future of our youth, and provides us with a determined step towards a smoke-free North. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. I now have Ms. Lee, chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for opening comments.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs held public hearings on Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act, on December 5, 2005, in Yellowknife; on December 6<sup>th</sup> in Enterprise and Kakisa; and on December 7<sup>th</sup> in Fort Providence and Behchoko. The clause-by-clause review of the bill took place in Yellowknife over two meetings on January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 9, 2006. The committee would like to thank all of the people who spoke to the bill during our public meetings.

The committee heard strong support for Bill 16 from representatives of the Canadian Public Health Association, the NWT Medical Association and Tobacco Action Yellowknife, as well as several individuals who spoke on their own behalf.

Some witnesses suggested that the bill could go further, by extending the prohibition on smoking in public places to include the use of smokeless tobacco, and by raising the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 19.

The committee was impressed to learn that the band store in Kakisa has been keeping cigarettes under the counter for some time already on their own initiative. However, a few presenters in other communities had reservations about the prohibition on displaying tobacco products in



stores that minors can access, as they believed this was hiding the problem rather than dealing with it. One presenter suggested it would be better to limit the sale of tobacco products to smoke shops where minors would not be allowed entry at all.

Some witnesses and committee members questioned the government's ability to enforce the legislation effectively, given that many small communities only receive visits from an environmental health officer once or twice a year. For example, one witness told us she had noticed that every time she drove past a local bar, the ashtray was inching closer and closer to the door, despite the WCB requirements that it be three metres away. She suggested that the department might be able to use local officials to make enforcement less sporadic.

One issue of concern to the committee is the status of the designated smoking rooms that are currently permitted under the WCB's environmental tobacco smoke worksite regulations. While none of the witnesses spoke on this matter, the committee is aware that some businesses have recently gone to considerable expense to construct designated smoking rooms in reliance on the WCB regulations. From our discussions with the Minister, the committee understands that the regulatory powers in Bill 16 are broad enough to make an exception to the prohibition on smoking in public places in order to allow designated smoking rooms. The Minister assured the committee that in drafting the regulations, the "intent would be not to be more onerous at this point than the WCB."

The committee wishes to stress the importance of notice and communication to businesses that will be affected by this new act. In particular, the committee would urge the department to keep in mind that some remote communities are resupplied only once per year. Businesses in those communities will need sufficient time to acquire any equipment or supplies that might be needed to comply with the act, and perhaps to also adjust the quantity of tobacco products they bring in. The committee, therefore, expects that the act will not be in force for at least several months.

The Minister and committee agreed to four amendments to the bill during the clause-by-clause review. The first amendment removed the prohibition on selling tobacco products in establishments that sell liquor. The committee requested this change in response to concerns that some people might be more likely to drive while under the influence of alcohol to purchase cigarettes if they are not available in the bar.

Two further amendments to the bill make it an offence for young people to attempt to purchase tobacco products, with a maximum fine of \$200 for a first offence and \$500 for further offences. The committee requested these amendments in order to balance the heavy penalties for businesses and staff who, even inadvertently, sell tobacco to minors, by putting some responsibility on young people themselves to obey the law.

The final amendment removed a provision from the bill that protected the government from liability for damage to evidence seized under the act.

The committee also agreed to motions to amend the bill to increase the legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 19. The Minister did not concur with these

amendments because making the legal age higher than the federal legislation would curtail the opportunities for cross-enforcement with federal officials. This would result in additional enforcement costs of approximately \$100,000 per year.

Bill 16 gave the committee an opportunity to talk generally with communities about whether they think attitudes towards smoking are changing. We were encouraged to hear that the culture does seem to be changing among adults, especially elders, however, we were concerned to learn that in some communities, children are still starting to smoke with their peers, especially on weekends when there is also drinking going on. Young people themselves told us that the way to address this is to have more recreational equipment and activities for youth. Other community members spoke about the importance of education, including initiatives like promoting smoke-free homes, and getting health care workers to visit people in their homes to explain the dangers of smoking, especially for people with low literacy who may not understand pamphlets and posters.

The committee realizes that Bill 16 is only one part of a much broader strategy, and would like to encourage the Minister and department in their efforts to combat tobacco use. We look forward to the results of the next school tobacco survey, and hope it will show that we are making progress.

Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 16 as amended and reprinted, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 16. Individual committee members may have questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Is the Minister ready to bring in his witnesses?

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Is committee agreed? Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the witnesses, please.

Thank you. Mr. Minister, could you please introduce your witnesses, please?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, I have with me Patricia Gall, our legal support from Justice; Dr. Corriveau, chief medical officer with the Department of Health and Social Services; and, Mr. Dave Murray, deputy minister of Health and Social Services, for his last piece of legislation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** At this time, I would like to ask for general comments on the bill. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the report of the Standing Committee on Social Programs speaks on a number of issues that we heard from the communities, but I just want to make a couple of points here that the interested public might want to know about how we have considered their input. I have been, and I think some of the Members in this House have been, contacted by those who really feel that we should not have made changes to the requirement that would have prohibited bars from selling cigarettes. I understand that

there are studies done in this area and there are many experts who believe that there is a close link -- Dr. Corriveau could be one of them, I don't know -- between the use of tobacco and the use of alcohol. When people are in bars or when they are in drinking environments, people who have quit smoking or who have never smoked or try not to smoke, may be more inclined to take up the habit again. The purpose of having that prohibition in this legislation before it was amended was to prevent that happening.

I think there is a lot of merit in that. I haven't seen any scientific studies in that regard, but I think common sense and any knowledge of these two addiction issues could see how that could be very much plausible. I just want to state that I found that point very interesting. I have thought about it in my head and I think all of the Social Programs committee debated the issue at length. I think it really is a question about balancing the issue of how much, weighing the possibility of people going back to smoking when they're in a drinking environment, to people, if they want to smoke in a drinking environment, they will anyway and they'll try to get the tobacco, whether they get them from outside of the bar where smoking would usually happen or they would go to try to buy cigarettes elsewhere. So it was a balancing of what we're preventing to do and what we're causing side or second and third issues from preventing the sale of tobacco in bars.

I just want to make it clear here for the record that all the input from the public in this regard and the conversations I've had with people on the phone about this, I just want to make sure that everyone knows that input was not taken lightly and it was well considered, and this decision was made after much analysis and reflection and debating about it by all the Members.

I think that second issue that I've been getting some feedback on is the amendment that we're putting here to put some responsibility and legal penalty for the young people who may, knowing that they're not supposed to, that they may try to buy cigarettes in some way. I think that is, it's a different step that we're taking and there is a question about whether we are penalizing victims and penalizing youth who may be better served by a more positive feedback. I think that's important and I think antismoking campaigns are important to let the young people know about the downside of smoking and there's a lot of work that's going on there. But I think on balance, for me anyway, and I'll speak as a regular, you know, just one individual Member here, I think this is just a part of denormalizing smoking, sending out the message that smoking...We want to discourage young people from starting to smoke and that there are laws that prohibit them from buying cigarettes underage, and if they try to do that, knowing that they're not supposed to, and trying to do it in a, you know, in whatever way they find, I'm sure there can be creative ways to do that, then there are going to be consequences for that action.

Once again, it's a balancing question about what we want to do as a Legislature to discourage and reduce chances of young people from picking up the habit in the first place, because that is the best way to get at this problem, I believe. Just putting some onus and responsibility on the young people. I think for lots of young people who may choose to make the choice of trying to buy cigarettes, I think they are mature enough to know and take responsibility for and to deal with the consequences of that. I think most young people would have all the faculties

and wherewithal to make the choice that there are some serious legal consequences to trying to buy cigarettes. So hopefully this will go a long way to...This is not in any way to be punitive excessively toward young people. I think it's just putting some responsibility on them where that wasn't there before.

I just want to make those two comments because it wasn't the kind of detail and the individual opinion that we would be able to put into a committee report anyway. So thank you. I just want to say that I will be obviously supporting this bill. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister? Thank you. I now have Mr. Pokiak.

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, will support this bill, although it's very hard for some of us bad habit people to go buy it, but I will support the bill. I guess, Mr. Chairman, I just have a couple of quick remarks to make. One is in regard to the opening remarks by the Minister in terms of the young people being charged. I hope that he makes it very clear to the young people that there will be consequences to them as well as to the vendors. I think if they are well known there will be consequences when they do go and they're underage, there's a heavy...Let's just hope that the parents don't end up paying for the fine. We have to make sure it is the young people, if they do get caught.

The last comment, really quick one here, Mr. Chairman, is that I know that the bill will take awhile to, it will pass through this Legislature here, but I'd just like to ask the Minister, between now and when the bill is passed, what is it the department is doing now to notify the vendors exactly that these are some of the rules that will come up?

Other than that, Mr. Chairman, I don't have any other further comments and, like I say, I'll support the bill. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent is to do the groundwork and give everyone lead time to know this is coming and we're looking at a coming into force date of September 2006, which is a few months. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything further, Mr. Pokiak?

**MR. POKIAK:** Yes, just one last one here, Mr. Chairman, in regard to some of the comments made from some of the communities. They mentioned that maybe health care workers can go out to explain the bill. I think it's important also that if they do go out, that I think that, especially for the elders, they should have interpreters so they can understand the bill itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Member's good advice and we've made note of that and we will be rolling out a communication plan and we will be ensuring that every community is made fully aware of this very new and important piece of legislation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further general comments from committee? Mr. Braden, please.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Briefly, I think. This is very positive legislation. I'm going to be voting in favour of it. It continues to take a product and I guess something that's been accepted in virtually every society and civilization in the world and we're trying to change people's attitudes about it after many, many generations of normality, in fact even desirability. We're now saying that we've got to change our attitudes and we're showing some signs of success. So these changes in societal behaviour are big projects that do not show immediate return, but from what I understand, the trends are there, and it is a reality. Now I've picked up from some of our community tours on this that it is now becoming uncool to smoke. When we hear that kind of thing, even in the smallest, perhaps quietest way, it signals that we're getting to a tipping point in the attitude of society and I really hope that we can continue with that.

Mr. Chairman, it's sort of in that respect that I would like to take this initiative and expand it into that other legal but very troublesome product, and that is alcohol, and hope that through the upcoming review of the Liquor Act and other progressive things that we can do as a Legislature and as a department, that we can undertake the same kind of commitment to the way our society regards and uses and abuses alcohol and the damage that it causes. I think that is our next challenge and I hope we can build on the successes and resolve that we're showing in tobacco control and demonstrate the same thing legislatively in alcohol.

If I have a bit of a context or a question that I am going to put to the Minister and his staff, Mr. Chair, it would be in a bit of a snapshot of what is the current known use of tobacco in the Northwest Territories? What are our levels of consumption? What is the trend in tobacco use here in the Northwest Territories? Have we got any targets or measurements that we hope to attain over time through the introduction of this new act and any of the measures that are ongoing, Mr. Chair?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Dr. Corriveau, please.

**DR. CORRIVEAU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, I think it is important to highlight that this legislation for us is one prong of a multi-prong approach to dealing with tobacco and its denormalization. It is also focussed on normalizing a non-smoking lifestyle among youth, an initiative that we brought forward and actually got a lot of national attention in our Don't be a Butthead campaign that has been a success beyond even any expectations we had with regard to the uptake where kids are being asked to pledge that they will grow up as non-smokers. This year in the phase two of our campaign, kids are asked to recommit to this and then to bring some friends along and expand the level of commitments across the NWT where we have well over 2,000 of our young people who have made that commitment.

This legislation is another piece that we believe is very important. We are starting from a point where, overall, our smoking rates are a little bit more than twice the national average. In some of our smaller communities, it is actually three times the national average, so we are coming from a long way. In the coming year, we will be

planning our follow-up surveys to the ones that were done as a baseline when we initiated this strategy to start measuring in finer detail how much success we are having by age group and at the community level. At this point in time, we are hopeful that we will bring our rates down rapidly. I think one Member used an image of a tipping point, but things can move quickly in this area as in others. Once you get your momentum and you can find ways to sustain it, we are quite hopeful that our rates will come down.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Dr. Corriveau. I now have Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. Just a couple of things I forgot to mention. One, of course, is to thank the Minister and the department for bringing this law forward and the second thing is with respect to when this bill will come to force. Mr. Chair, I think that is a very important issue in this regard. There are going to be requirements on the part of retailers on what to do and not to do as a fall-off on this legislation. I think it is only fair that we, as a Legislature, give them sufficient time and resources where feasible to do that. I think that a similar situation existed with the Personal Directives Act. I believe we had discussions here about the lead time and how much education and communication strategies there will be. The Minister made commitments here to make sure that there were going to be some training in that regard, and the feedback we are getting from the ground is that may not have taken place as the way we had envisioned it. I cannot stress enough about the importance of making sure that there is a lead time to this. I would like to know if the Minister could indicate to this House as to what is the time frame he is looking at in terms of the notice that he is going to give the retailers who have to change the way they do their business. What sort of support services would there be for them to inquire and ask questions so that they could follow the rules? What is his communication plan or action plan to make sure that this legislation is implemented without causing too much trouble in a number of fronts? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the coming into force date is September 2006. Once this bill receives third reading and is given assent, we will be working with the Health and Social Services authorities to make sure that we inform all of the communities and all the involved people. There have been meetings with environmental health officers. There are going to be more in terms of how they are going to do the work. We are going to be communicating with all of the businesses. We are going to be working in conjunction with and trying to be as cooperative with the WCB as possible with their communication team so that there is a clear linkage between the two. We are going to, by May or June, identify the expected change. We are going to develop the correspondence and prepare the mailings. Right up until September, we are going to be working very assiduously to make sure this is rolled out effectively. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, committee. Are there any further general comments on Bill 16? I am not seeing any. Thank you. If I can draw committee's attention to page 4, Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act. Clause by clause.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Page 4, Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act, part 1, interpretation and application, clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Page 6, clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Part 2, sales supply and display of tobacco and tobacco accessories. Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Page 7, clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 8, clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Page 9, clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Part 3, promotion against environmental tobacco smoke, clause 8.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 10, clause nine.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Page 11, clause 10.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Part four, administration and enforcement. Clause 11.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 12.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 13.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Page 13, clause 14.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 14, clause 15.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 16.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 17.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Page 15, clause 18.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Page 16, clause 19.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 20.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 21.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Under part 5, offences and penalties. Clause 22.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 23.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Now on page 17, clause 24.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 25.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 26.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 19, clause 27.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 28.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 20, clause 29.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 30.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you. Page 21, clause 31.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 32.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 33.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Under part 6, general, clause 34.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 22, consequential amendments, clause 35.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Page 23, commencement, clause 36.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you, committee. To the bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Does committee agree that Bill 16 is ready for third reading at this time?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Thank you. Bill 16 is now ready for third reading. Thank you.

At this time, I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses, Ms. Gall, Dr. Corriveau and Mr. Murray. Mr. Minister, I believe you have something to say.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Members for supporting this bill, but I would just like to take this moment to acknowledge and recognize that this will be deputy minister Dave Murray's last appearance before this House, that he will be moving on out of government into the rest of his life. I would just like to thank him for all the work he's done on our behalf. It's been a pleasure having him at the table.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** Well said, Mr. Miltenberger. At this time, what is the wish of committee? Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hawkins):** The motion is not debatable. The motion is on the floor. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you. I would like to have the report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hawkins.

#### ITEM 17: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2005-2006, and Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act, and would like to report that that Bills 19 and 16 are ready for third reading. Mr.

Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. A seconder? The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

---Applause

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you. Motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Minister Bell.

#### ITEM 18: THIRD READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 12: An Act To Amend The Territorial Court Act

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Bell. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 12 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Minister Bell.

##### Bill 15: Court Security Act

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 15, Court Security Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Bell. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 15 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Minister Roland.

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

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

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Roland. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 18 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Minister Roland.

**Bill 20: An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act, No. 2**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Roland. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 20 has had third reading. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

**ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions

- Motion 16, Recognizing The Value Of Elders' Knowledge

- Motion 17, Performance Audit Of The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

16. First Reading of Bills

17. Second Reading of Bills

18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Committee Report 8 - 15(4), Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General to the NWT Legislative Assembly for the Fiscal Years Ended March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2003

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act

- Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2005-2006

21. Prorogation

**ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 16:17 p.m.