



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, October 31, 2006****Members Present**

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the House. Colleagues, I would like to direct your attention to the gallery today. We have the president and CEO of the Rick Hansen Foundation and none other than the man in motion, none other than Mr. Rick Hansen himself.

---Applause

Also, representing the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities, Cecily Hewitt, Bill Burles, Linda Noseworthy, Heather Clarke and board members Doreen Baptiste and Al Reid.

---Applause

Representing the Yellowknife Association of Community Living we have Rae Celotti and Donna Williston.

---Applause

Representing the Canadian Paraplegic Association, Shaun Roper.

---Applause

Also, the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion coordinator, Lydia Bardak.

---Applause

Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a point of personal privilege pursuant to section 21(1) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly,

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. What is your point of personal privilege?

Point Of Privilege

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, an article was published in yesterday's edition of News/North entitled From the Public Purse and contained incorrect information. I would like to take this opportunity to correct the record. The article contained information regarding my constituency spending. It stated that I spent \$2,000 on the purchase of wooden pens. Mr. Speaker, the cost of pens was, in fact, \$200, a substantial difference, Mr. Speaker. I do have the invoice to verify my statement here today. I would like to ask News/North to write an apology to me and my constituents. Thank you.

---Applause

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 50-15(5): 2007 Canada Winter Games**

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with an update on a number of special Team NWT initiatives being sponsored by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs for the upcoming Canada Winter Games, which will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon, from February 23 to March 10, 2007.

As Members may be aware, the most ambitious Canada Games torch relay even held began on April 10 of this year, when the three territorial torches were lit for the first time in the North at the Canadian Forces Base in Alert, Nunavut.

From that Far North start, the NWT torch has been on an epic journey through 25 communities to date. It has traveled by dog team, canoe, motorboat, on foot and by cross-country skis, by ATV, truck, car and military jet. It has visited Virginia Falls and has been sighted near the pingos of Tuktoyaktuk.

In the coming months, the torch will continue its journey through the rest of our communities before making its final trek from Yellowknife to Whitehorse just before the games open in February 2007.

In addition to the torch relay, the Northwest Territories is participating in a number of other special events to celebrate the first ever Canada Games north of the 60th parallel.

The Northwest Territories will be sending a contingent of Dene and Inuit games athletes who will vie for special medals in a competition among the three territories. Given the number of Canadians that are expected to attend from all across the country, this event will surely be one of the crowd pleasers at the games.

I am also pleased to report that 33 youth ambassadors, one from every community, will be attending the games to represent the Northwest Territories and learn valuable skills acting as games volunteers. Team NWT will also include athletes and coaches from 12 sports including badminton, biathlon, snowboarding, curling, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, cross-country skiing, short track speed skating, squash and shooting.

The 2007 Canada Winter Games represent a significant opportunity for all three territories to host our southern neighbours and to show them the unique wonders of the North. I will be providing my colleagues with additional information on the Canada Winter Games as we continue our preparation. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Minister's statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

Minister's Statement 51-15(5): Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories operates a fur marketing service

to trappers in the Northwest Territories under the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program.

This popular program provides guaranteed advance payment for all good quality fur shipped to auction, a prime fur bonus and grubstake funding for eligible trappers.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that the 2005-06 season was one of the best in 15 years for Northwest Territories trappers.

---Applause

Thank you. Proceeds from the sale of furs exceeded \$1.4 million. Our harvest of marten pelts alone was worth \$1 million.

Additionally, eligible trappers received payments from the Prime Fur Bonus and Grubstake programs worth in excess of \$400,000, bringing the total income to trappers last season to \$1.8 million.

Mr. Speaker, market reports for the upcoming season are quite promising. Marten, lynx, cross and white fox pelts from the Northwest Territories are in high demand and are expected to maintain or exceed last year's prices for our dedicated trappers.

Far East buyers are driving interest in wild mink and muskrat, so we expect increased prices for both species. Prices paid for beaver and marten have increased dramatically over the last three years and are expected to remain at high levels.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to report that properly handled wolverine and wolf pelts are predicted to once again reach last season's levels, while Northwest Territories and Nunavut seal pelts are in high demand and are also expected to increase in value.

Mr. Speaker, under the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program, all Northwest Territories trappers are eligible for an advance payment for their furs. The amount of the advance is posted in all communities and is guaranteed under our program.

Strong markets and a demand for quality furs that currently exceeds supply is good news for Northwest Territories trappers. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise all Northwest Territories trappers that our government's advance payments for quality marten and lynx pelts will be increased on November 1, 2006, to better reflect market value and to directly assist trappers with rising operating costs.

Mr. Speaker, the number of youth involved in the trapping industry in the Northwest Territories is growing. This, in my opinion, is the most encouraging trend, and bodes well for our fur sector in the future. This government will continue to provide support to this important sector of our traditional economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 52-15(5): Rick Hansen Foundation

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Health and Social Services has agreed to a one-time contribution to the Rick Hansen Foundation...

---Applause

... in the amount of \$100,000 to be disbursed in annual amounts of \$20,000 over five years. This money will assist people with spinal cord injuries and persons with disabilities.

The Rick Hansen Foundation helps people with spinal cord injuries to have equal opportunities, and lead active and healthy lives.

In May, the Premier and the former Minister of Health and Social Services met with Mr. Hansen to discuss the needs for persons with disabilities, and Mr. Hansen shared some of his personal highlights. The meetings were successful. It was agreed that the Rick Hansen Foundation would work with the NWT Council for Persons with Disabilities to ensure the GNWT contribution will be spent in the NWT. A "Solutions Team" of volunteers will work with the NWT Council for Persons with Disabilities to allocate the \$20,000 per year based on NWT proposals.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services, in conjunction with the Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities, will continue to work at improving services for persons with disabilities. Partnerships with NGOs, such as the NWT Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Rick Hansen Foundation, are integral to meeting the needs of persons with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Metro Huculak For Exemplary Leadership

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is Literacy Day in this Assembly and in keeping with our literacy theme this afternoon and the importance of education for all people, I would like to draw attention to an individual who has devoted a career to furthering the cause of education and literacy among young people.

Mr. Metro Huculak has done in his context of government and school boards and in keeping with the priority of teaching students, ensuring they get a good education. Mr. Huculak is here in the audience today, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to read a press release from YK1 as my Member's statement.

Mr. Metro Huculak from YK1 was awarded the provincial/territorial EXL Award for Excellence in School Administration in Winnipeg at the Annual Canadian Association of School Administrators Conference on October 13, 2006. The Canadian Association of School Administrators presents this annual award to members who have displayed exemplary leadership ability, enhanced school administration, made important contributions to education, brought honour to their profession, and served as a member of CASA for five years. Administrators from Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Manitoba and NWT were nominated for this provincial award.

It's quoted, "I am not at all surprised that Mr. Huculak was given this award," said Mr. Ed Wittchen, professional development director of CASA, "his energy, enthusiasm, interpersonal skills and strong leadership abilities have allowed him to bring a lot of

positive changes to YK1 in a short period of time. He surrounds himself with a good team."

Mr. Huculak made significant changes since joining YK1 in August 2005 as superintendent. He places a strong emphasis in implementing professional development programs for YK1 administrative staff to expand their leadership capacity. Over the past few years he has worked at creating and applying the "Classroom Walk Through" program in Alberta which is still in progress and used in training NWT administration staff. Mr. Huculak was also involved in the "Healthy Interaction" and "Safe and Caring Communities and School" programs in Alberta. Mr. Huculak is currently working for the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Education, Culture and Employment to implement a similar program in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this moment to honour an educator and someone who makes a difference in our community, Mr. Huculak. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On Federal Funding Cuts To Literacy Programs

MR. MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the value of literacy programs is not in question, nor is the need to support our museums or the volunteers who are working across the Northwest Territories to make life better, nor is the need for a strong environment, nor is the need to be able to have court challenge money. What is in question is the intent and policies of the Conservative government that have not served us well in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, it's very hard to come to a good understanding of the Conservative policies. They are so Republican.

---Laughter

It's so bush league that it has done us a terrible disservice in the Northwest Territories. The people who need it most are getting hurt the most. I think that is unfair. As we seek to negotiate a way to have the Conservative government come to their senses and put the money back, the one thing to keep in mind is there is an election coming. When that election comes, and if they haven't rectified these injustices to the people of the Northwest Territories, keep that in mind. It's as simple as ABC; Anybody but the Conservatives.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Status Of Sleep Apnea Treatments At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak today with regard to an issue that I brought up in the House in the past and that is the condition of sleep apnea and the devastating impact that it can have on a person and a family's quality of life.

In May of 2005, the former Minister said that a report was being done by Dr. Remmers from Calgary in regard to the continuation and modernization of the Sleep Centre at the Stanton Territorial Hospital. I have not seen a copy of that

report and, Mr. Speaker, later today I will be questioning the new Minister on exactly what is happening out at Stanton with regard to sleep apnea.

Sleep apnea is a very common medical disorder. Sufferers with this condition need to have their condition properly diagnosed in a sleep lab prior to deciding on a form of treatment. This condition can cause severe drowsiness, the sufferer is unable to concentrate at work, stay alert, take care of children or drive safely. Some sufferers cannot even lie down without the fear of suffocating.

One of the forms of treatment is to sleep with the aid of a CPAP or an oxygen machine, which is not covered by NWT health insurance. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know exactly why this machine is not covered or insured. Last year, the former Minister stated that there was a working group currently reviewing the issue and they would come up with the best way for the usage of the CPAP machines to be covered. Mr. Speaker, it's 18 months later and I am still getting concerns from constituents that extended health benefits is not covering the cost for these machines, which are approximately \$1,800.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the new Minister can explain to me today why this is still the case. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Member's Statement On Federal Funding Reductions

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal funding reductions we've recently had will have detrimental effects on many northern initiatives that are provided by our NGOs and our non-profit agencies who rely heavily on federal government funding as a core funding source.

Mr. Speaker, I could stand here all day and talk about why our Conservative government should not have made these funding cuts to these social envelopes in Canada, more specifically here in the NWT, but I am sure the federal government has already had its spill of complaints over the past week.

I want to talk about the hypocritical tactics our Conservative government is taking on many national fronts. A good example is the Prime Minister stating in this House, not just a month ago, the need to free the North from the paternalistic hold Ottawa has on the NWT. But before the ink even dried on this news item, Mr. Speaker, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Mr. Prentice, is saying the interest of special interest groups, i.e. the aboriginal governments, will not stand in the way of northern development. Before the election, the Conservatives were stating how supportive they were to addressing social gaps our aboriginal populations are up against in the areas of education, health and justice. Now we have federal cuts in areas which work to narrow the social gap and the obvious Conservative lack of support for the historic Kelowna Accord, which directly relates to issues related to this, Mr. Speaker, has not had much appeal.

Before federal elections, we heard the Conservatives talking about the partnership building initiatives with aboriginals in Canada, but just recently a UN declaration affirming the rights to lands and resources as essential to indigenous peoples retaining their culture and fulfilling their basic human rights was voted against by only two out of 47 countries, one being Canada. What does that tell us

as Canadians, Mr. Speaker? All this lip service about turns, empty promises and inconsistency will get me, and I hope many other Canadians, thinking about the next federal election and say to themselves fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause.

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

Member's Statement On Recruiting And Retaining Nursing Graduates

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to have a lot more to say about the ABC and the cuts in federal funding later in the day but, at this point, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak about the issues of nursing grads at Aurora College. Mr. Speaker, as you're well aware, the Nursing Program at Aurora College has been and remains one of the cornerstones of the government's efforts to meet the challenge of recruiting and retaining the nurses in the North. However, it appears that, for whatever reasons, a number of obstacles are being put in front of these grads that are having the effect of them questioning whether the government is genuine about wanting to hire them and keep them, and in some cases forcing them to consider looking elsewhere for employment options upon graduating next summer.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, nursing graduates are being told that they would receive only 90 percent of their wages as new nurses. Not only that, they're being told that there will be no commensurate increments in salaries between those grads with diplomas versus baccalaureate diplomas, Mr. Speaker. I'm also advised that this is not the way things are done in other jurisdictions and I urge this government to revisit this issue and stop the practice immediately.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, nursing grads are being advised that they will have no choice in areas of specialty that they could practice when they begin their career as a new nurse in the North. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that, as an employer, the GNWT has its own operational requirements and that they would not be able to accommodate all requests of a specialty, but to approach it in a way that gives them no options for choice, even where such options could be workable, is not the way to make these nurses feel welcome or feel that the GNWT, as an employer, are concerned about being partners in their personal and career plans.

Mr. Speaker, I'm especially concerned about the suggestion being made to these nursing grads that they would be screened out for any nursing employment opportunities in the North if they don't go along with what's being offered. This is certainly not acceptable and not conducive to making them feel an important part of the NWT health care delivery system.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to face shortages of nurses, new and experienced, and goodness knows we need to keep each and every one of them. Surely we can and must do a better job to create a more positive and welcoming employment environment for these new nursing grads. I will be asking questions in question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Focus Of Federal Government Funding Reductions

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as some of my colleagues have spoken about today, I'd like to speak to my frustration at the federal government's budget cuts to some of the programs that are very important to the people of the Northwest Territories. I don't know what the message is that they're trying to send to us, Mr. Speaker. They want to cut money from the women's groups, youth programs, volunteerism, smoking cessation. What are they telling us? If you belong to a women's group, light up a cigarette, don't volunteer for anything, especially if it's youth programs? I fail to see where their priorities are, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

This is another good argument for the Northwest Territories on this resource revenue sharing, some of the money that leaves here. I heard it's like \$1,200 by the time I finish speaking here. I mean, I didn't realize my words were worth that much. The Government of the Northwest Territories has got an opportunity here to send a message to the people of the Northwest Territories that they believe that these programs are important, by finding the money to fill in the gaps until the funding from the federal government is restored; and if we fight hard enough, that money will be restored.

I failed to mention literacy, Mr. Speaker, but that is another important part of it. My colleague from Thebacha likes to talk about the ABCs. Well, today I want to give you another lesson on the most powerful letter in the alphabet, and that letter, Mr. Speaker, is the letter X. With one simple little letter you can change things you don't like. If you don't like the way a government is run, use the letter X and you can change it. If you don't like people or if you don't think people are qualified to be MLAs or Ministers, use that little letter. The letter X is a powerful letter. A lot of people went to war and fought so we could have the privilege of using this little letter.

So, Mr. Speaker, people across the NWT may think they're powerless sometimes, but, no, they're not. They're very, very powerful people and that power comes from one simple little letter and sometimes they should exercise that responsibility that's been given to them and use the letter X. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Funding Reductions To The Volunteer Sector

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, federal actions in the last few weeks have savaged programs that make a big difference for the people of the NWT in literacy and public health, our museums, programs affecting aboriginal people, and tourism. Mr. Speaker, we learned a couple of days ago that the August 2006 budgetary surplus in Ottawa was, get this, \$6.7 billion. So far this year that's \$2 billion more than last year.

Astonishing; and yet the federal government, without talking to us, comes and rips \$1.2 million out from underneath programs that support the most valuable, the

most cherished, and I think the most undervalued sector of our society, and that's the volunteers. Many of these people are putting in the time away from their families, sometimes away from their jobs, donating their skills to their communities. This is an enormous hit, Mr. Speaker. It might not sound like a big one in dollar terms, because for the volunteer sector here, the Canada Volunteer Initiative, it's \$160,000 to this program annually, but that's 95 percent of its budget, Mr. Speaker. We're going to lose the initiatives that these people have started, with training, with community outreach.

You know, Mr. Speaker, 53 percent of NWT adults volunteer with a group. Eight-six percent of us volunteer informally on our own. Collectively we contribute the equivalent of an estimated \$50 million to our economy. One hundred and sixty thousand dollars ripped out from underneath this very valuable organization is helping to turn over \$50 million in productivity and benefit. Mr. Speaker, shame on the federal government.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you can see today, some of my colleagues are speaking on literacy. With the recent announcement by the Conservative government to cut a number of programs, the organization taking the biggest cut is the NWT Literacy Council, who, I understand, will lose approximately \$300,000 in funding or one-third of their budget. This is a crying shame, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the way the Conservative government made the announcement, without consulting the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, shows a lack of respect for provincial and territorial governments. How will the Department of ECE find funds within their budget to replace the \$300,000 that is vital to continue literacy programs for NWT residents?

Mr. Speaker, over the last few years we have strived, as a government, to enable residents to become literate by providing assistance to the NWT Literacy Council to assist local people in their communities so they can provide workshops for capacity building, tutoring workshops, et cetera. Mr. Speaker, in order for our people across the territory to survive in today's society, we need to continue to provide funding to the colleges, schools and adult education facilities so that the students can enhance their literacy skills and become self-sufficient and employable. How can we do this when the federal government made these cuts? This is a step backward, in my opinion, because once again we, as aboriginal and non-aboriginal people, suffer the consequences and once again will have to rely on government hand outs.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, does the Conservative government know the importance of literacy and the unique situation of our vast and beautiful territory? With these recent cuts, Mr. Speaker, I don't think so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with today's theme, I, too, would like to offer my thoughts on the effect of the recent, short-sighted federal decision to cut literacy funding for a number of territorial literacy advocacy groups who also deliver literacy programming to NWT residents and the cuts to funding for a portion of the Literacy Program delivered through Aurora College.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, the NWT will see \$600,000 in cuts, with the NWT Literacy Council losing roughly \$350,000 and Aurora College losing \$125,000, and other organizations like the Federation franco-tenoise will also see their funding reduced. These cuts are particularly hard on a jurisdiction like ours where we do not have the ability to fund programs from other revenue sources.

In short, Mr. Speaker, to replace the federal funding will mean that another program or service will have to be cut. Mr. Speaker, these cuts will be especially hard on the NWT Literacy Council and will challenge their ability to stay in operation past March of 2007. Losing one-third of their budget will mean no funding for governance, no pay for the executive director, and the end of community-based literacy programs.

In a press release deploring the cuts, the executive director of the NWT Literacy Council posed a number of very relevant questions in response to the federal government's position that funding national literacy initiatives is an adequate alternative to funding community-based literacy programs; and I quote, "Who is going to organize a National Literacy Program that will meet the needs of the people of Aklavik? Who in Ottawa will travel to Fort McPherson to offer family literacy training? And which national organization will work to create literacy materials in the aboriginal languages in the NWT?" Mr. Speaker, I believe these questions highlight the need for and the relevance of the NWT Literacy Council in the day-to-day lives of the residents of the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, Aurora College has also been severely impacted by the cuts. Funding for the student support centres at the Aurora College campuses is cut. So college students who need some extra help will be impacted. There will be two literacy outreach programs that will probably cease to operate.

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate there are corporate citizens like BHP and Diavik that are working with and providing opportunities for their northern employees who want to improve their literacy and we thank them for this. However, Mr. Speaker, that responsibility lies primarily with all levels of government and it now appears that the federal government has abandoned those adults with literacy problems to us as a territorial government and NGOs.

In closing, I wanted to reiterate how disappointed I am with the actions of this federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Need For Territorial Energy Policy

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I read a document published by the Department of ITI and ENR called "Energy for the Future," June 2006. Mr. Speaker, the Ministers have embarked on an energy crusade to develop a framework policy to ensure all NWT communities are treated equally in heating their homes or reducing huge leakage in the business sectors.

Mr. Speaker, the document states that the NWT consumes nearly 416 million litres of fuel, 55 percent of which is used for transportation. Fuel imported for space heating requires 91 million litres of diesel imported for electricity generators. The report also states that the development of highway infrastructure would have the greatest impact in terms of reducing energy costs and the costs of living in the NWT communities.

I'm a little worried, Mr. Speaker, because in the Sahtu we have no highways, our communities rely on diesel generators, and we only have seasonal roads. In 2004 in Deline, the average income per person is a little more than half of what the average person earns elsewhere in the Territories. Yet, Mr. Speaker, our cost of living is almost double that of Yellowknife. The Energy for the Future report is full of good ideas, such as the hydroelectric development strategy. The report says that hydroelectric power is renewable and insulated from international fuel price increases. The report also mentioned other potentials for cheaper energy sources. However, as long as these ideas sit in this report, the cost of living in the Sahtu remains terribly high. The government needs to get moving on implementing this strategy as soon as possible, so the people in the Sahtu can lead affordable lives.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I look forward towards a policy that supports all communities in the North with an equitable and sustaining energy model that will make our people proud and that we will be doing more to make it more liveable. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I made a statement last week, but I would like to say this again. I'd like to make a statement on literacy. When we look into our region and within Canada, the government has made cutbacks to literacy programs. They have also taken money away from my region and when we consider all the mining industry in our land and the majority of people that are working there are southern people and this is a statement I would like to make. (Translation ends)

We have heard lots of facts and statistics about the importance of literacy in this House. I could stand here and reiterate these facts and tell you once again that, according to our survey, 42 percent of working-age adults in the Northwest Territories have literacy challenges, Mr. Speaker. But I'm not going to do that today, Mr. Speaker. Instead I'm going to tell you a story about my community and every other small aboriginal community in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories currently benefits from a booming economy in our backyard. We have three major diamond mines in this territory. We have oil and gas and all the secondary industries that these industries bring with them. Mr. Speaker, we have more jobs than many parts of Canada. All that looks good on paper, Mr. Speaker, but when I go back to my community I talk to many of my constituents who unfortunately fall within the 69 percent of working-age aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories who have literacy challenges and who, as a result, Mr. Speaker, are therefore impacted by other social issues such as equity, power, justice, and their children's learning, and more. Instead of living on the property line or filling manual labour positions, these are the people, Mr. Speaker, who could be and should be taking on these high profile management and highly skilled trades positions made available by these industries. Instead, Mr. Speaker, we see southern people, as indicated in this House on several occasions, flying over our communities and taking away employment that should be rightfully ours.

Mr. Speaker, can this government justify telling 69 percent of its people that they are not important enough to be acknowledged? Mr. Speaker, I will have questions at the appropriate time. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Lydia Bardak, a constituent of mine and one of our new city councillors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see Mr. Dan Stockton, a constituent of mine and who also owns a business that deals with sleep apnea and respiratory therapy programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we've missed anybody in the gallery today, welcome to the House. I hope your enjoying the proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 226-15(5): Implementation Of The GNWT Energy Strategy

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI, when will his department start implementing some of the steps in the Energy for the Future document so that the Northwest Territories can see an equitable cost structure for energy provisions for all of the communities in the Northwest Territories?

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

Return To Question 226-15(5): Implementation Of The GNWT Energy Strategy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for the question. It's a good question. We've had a number of vehicles and documents over the last number of years building towards an Energy Strategy. Members are aware and Mr. Yakeleya's just referenced the document, Energy for the Future, a discussion paper that was released this June. It was meant to stimulate some dialogue and debate on the issues. We embarked on a consultation, tried this summer and didn't get much uptake, so we've rescheduled for the fall here. Obviously people are very busy in the summer, but we have a number of consultations underway this fall. We've been in Simpson; we've been in Norman Wells. We're on schedule in many other communities. The intent is to come back to committee and be ready to roll out the plan in February. But we should be to committee I believe in January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 226-15(5): Implementation Of The GNWT Energy Strategy

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I read the document. It's a very important document. I sure hope we get a lot of people in there and involved in terms of getting some discussion here. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my Member's statement, the Energy for the Future report states that the development of the highway infrastructure would have the greatest impact in terms of reducing the energy costs and cost of living in many Northwest Territories communities. In the Sahtu we have no highways. Our communities rely on diesel generators and we only have seasonal roads. Mr. Speaker, I want to know what this government or this Minister is prepared to do for the Sahtu in order to make the cost of living more affordable. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 226-15(5): Implementation Of The GNWT Energy Strategy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that infrastructure is key. Many of our communities that rely on flown in goods obviously are at a cost disadvantage. We need to make investments in road infrastructure throughout the territory. You've heard this government and this Premier lobbying in Ottawa for roads in your neck of the woods. Mr. Speaker, I think that you know that we'll continue to do that. We think it's a priority. It's but one piece of our energy plan and Energy Strategy, but it is vital to do something and make an impact on the cost of living in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 226-15(5): Implementation Of The GNWT Energy Strategy

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister to define what "affordable" means as a target. For instance, does affordable mean that the government predicts the Sahtu can have a cost of living equal to Yellowknife or to Edmonton? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 226-15(5): Implementation Of The GNWT Energy Strategy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, obviously affordability is relative. We recognize there are going to be differences, disparities between communities in the North. Some are remote. Some are closer. Yellowknife is going to have some cost advantages by virtue of the fact that it's on the road system. Mr. Speaker, we'll never be able to iron out all of those cost differentials to make everybody equal. I think what we're trying to strive for is equitability. We recognize that we've got to do what we can primarily in our smaller communities to bring down the cost of living. That's a priority for this government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 226-15(5): Implementation Of The GNWT Energy Strategy

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has my 125 percent support in terms of making it equitable and bringing down the cost of living in the Sahtu region. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister is, when will the Sahtu see a significant, effective reduction of the fuel costs and increase to the standards of living? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 226-15(5): Implementation Of The GNWT Energy Strategy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First step is to plan in February, but that's not to suggest that all initiatives are on hold. I know the community of Deline is doing some very good work looking at some local hydro options. I've been very impressed with their ability to look for solutions and not wait, obviously, for a government plan that tells them these things make sense. I think intuitively they know that. We're prepared to support that community and other communities that want to look at local solutions, Mr. Speaker. I'll give the Member this government's assurance that those communities have our full support and we'll continue to work with them to find solutions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 227-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to get back to my Member's statement from earlier. Again, I am standing up in this House and questioning the government on sleep apnea and how the government is dealing with this issue. Last year there was a substantial wait for persons wanting to access the Sleep Centre at Stanton Hospital and the former Minister stated last May that a report was being done by Dr. Remmers from Calgary in regard to the modernization of a Sleep Centre at Stanton. I'm wondering if the Minister of Health and Social Services can tell me exactly what the report of Dr. Remmers of Calgary did last year said about the Sleep Centre at Stanton and what exactly the disposition of that centre is today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 227-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar with that report and would have to make a request to the department as to where that report is and what recommendations may have been made. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 227-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 30th of last year the former Minister stated in this House, on page 75 of Hansard, that there is a working group currently reviewing this issue. I'm sure that they will be giving us suggestions on the best way for this program to be covered. This program, Mr. Speaker, is the CPAP machine that sufferers of sleep apnea require as part of their treatment. I'd like to ask the Minister, is he aware of the recommendations that this working group came up with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 227-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, I'm not familiar with that report and would have to get the information. So, no, I'm not aware of those recommendations. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 227-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not only sleep apnea patients that can use the help of the CPAP machine. A constituent of mine suffered from a heart defect and had severe arrhythmia. One of the most significant symptoms was a marked decrease in oxygen while he slept and, Mr. Speaker, once he was tested and given oxygen while he slept he felt immediately better and the stress to his heart decreased significantly. I'd like to ask the Minister to tell me why the use of these machines and the purchase of these machines is not fully covered by the NWT health insurance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 227-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the process we have in place today, my understanding is through a contractor we do testing of individuals who are referred to them by their doctor for testing. The testing can happen in any one of our regional centres, more normally done here in Yellowknife at the Stanton Hospital. With those results of the tests that are sent back to one of the internal medicine specialists, who would look at the information and depending on that process, if there is an additional medical condition attached to it, a prescription, as we call, is sent up to the office that deals with sending out requests and coverage under this area of HIB, and that, in fact, is what we use today. We use the same requirements that are put upon us by the NHIB. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 227-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think the Minister quite understood my question or answered my question. Given the fact that the use of these machines is fundamental to the sufferers of sleep apnea and other conditions, I believe the government should fully fund the purchase and the use of these machines, because they increase the quality of life for individuals. Again I want to ask the Minister, why are these machines not fully covered by NWT health insurance? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 227-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department itself or the Government of the Northwest Territories does not cover those on its own. We do from time to time, depending, as I stated earlier, if there is a medical condition as well related to this and this helps relieve that condition a prescription is made to our office and is sent through for coverage in line with the same guidelines used by the NIHB. That's the process that we use today. Thank you.

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

Question 228-15(5): Impact Of Federal Funding Reductions On Territorial Programs

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, today is Halloween and by golly we got some scary news the other week from the federal government, didn't we? About a million-two, I understand, lost to the NWT, \$160,000 to the Volunteer Initiatives Program. That's scary. The Literacy Program, the Literacy Council here, \$300,000, a third of their revenue is gone. They may have to close down some of their programs or lay off some of their staff. Frightening, Mr. Speaker. The amazingly successful program that we have got going, and I believe it's with Nunavut, to help curb smoking and help stop kids from smoking, the Butthead program, is under threat, as well as contributions to our museums.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask my questions of the Premier to see if he could advise the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, of the cumulative impact on programs, on our communities, and specifically on initiatives that this government is involved in. How are we hurt because of these program cuts by the federal government, Mr. Speaker?

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

Return To Question 228-15(5): Impact Of Federal Funding Reductions On Territorial Programs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't have all the numbers on the cumulative impact. Let me tell you that on literacy alone it's in the neighbourhood of \$500,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 228-15(5): Impact Of Federal Funding Reductions On Territorial Programs

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, because these have such broad-reaching impacts, has the Premier undertaken to direct all departments to look at where and what the impact is and what contingencies might be considered to take up the slack, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 228-15(5): Impact Of Federal Funding Reductions On Territorial Programs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have asked the departments to take a look at this and it doesn't matter which department is affected. Take a look at it and see what the impact is and whether there's ways of us doing business a little differently or helping out. But, Mr. Speaker, at the same time let me say that we can't just jump in whenever the federal government decides to opt out, because it just gets very expensive for us. So we want to be creative, we want to work with the NGOs and the others who are impacted by these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 228-15(5): Impact Of Federal Funding Reductions On Territorial Programs

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more with the Premier that now is not the time for us to jump in and accept this ghoulish, Mr. Speaker, this absolutely frightening surprise. And this was a surprise. Like a ghost in the dark, the feds came along and zap, they hit us. So I couldn't agree more that now is not the time for us to jump in and automatically fill the gap. So, Mr. Speaker, what has the Premier done to convey our disappointment and our dismay at the loss of these programs, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 228-15(5): Impact Of Federal Funding Reductions On Territorial Programs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have written a letter to the Prime Minister on this and explained our concern to him and appealed that he reconsider this. Mr. Speaker, as well, each of the Ministers whose mandate the various programs that have been cut fall within have also written letters. I have talked to other Premiers as well and in fact the chair of the Council of the Federation of all the Premiers across the country had a discussion, had a teleconference this morning and we have agreed to do a letter on behalf of all the Premiers saying this is something that impacts every jurisdiction, not just the Northwest Territories but all of us, and we're concerned about it. We're asking him to look at this again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 228-15(5): Impact Of Federal Funding Reductions On Territorial Programs

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where we've really got to go with this one is not only seeing what we can do about the cuts that we know of, but I believe the Conservative government also signalled that there may be even more so-called smart spending initiatives. What can the Premier tell us about any potential future additional cuts which might be in store for us, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 228-15(5): Impact Of Federal Funding Reductions On Territorial Programs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't received confirmation that there is an intention to do another round of cuts, although that was indicated. I can tell you that all of the jurisdictions, all the Premiers across the country are very concerned about that and all

of us have expressed our concern with this round of cuts as well as anything else that they may be considering in the future and are letting the Prime Minister know that we're not happy about this, the way it was done or the expectation that we're somehow going to be able to afford to jump in there and fill in where they pulled back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 229-15(5): Local Preference Component Of The Business Incentive Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the questions to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, the Honourable Brendan Bell. It has to do with the business incentive policy and the Minister knows that I have some concerns about one aspect of the business incentive policy and that is the five percent local preference that is applied to contracts when the contract is put out to tender and the bid comes back from a specific community. There's no issue with that particularly, but when the goods or services that are procured are actually for territorial consumption, does the Premier, or, pardon me, does the Minister agree that to give one company the advantage of a five percent local preference when the goods are going to be distributed territorially is a fair practice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 229-15(5): Local Preference Component Of The Business Incentive Policy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I believe the intention for the local preference for BIP is to give an advantage to a local company. An example of where goods would be purchased, we'll use Yellowknife for an example, in Yellowknife for the use by a government department in Yellowknife. If in fact that's not the intent and the government department then intends to then turn around and ship the goods out to regions, I would suggest that that wouldn't qualify for local preference for Yellowknife businesses. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 229-15(5): Local Preference Component Of The Business Incentive Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly the answer that I wanted to hear, because there are agencies that are funded by the government in Yellowknife that go out to tender for goods which are to be redistributed through a standing offer agreement with, well, I might as well say what it is. It's the health authorities where they have the opportunity to kind of piggyback on the pricing that was obtained by Stanton Hospital. Then each of the regions has the opportunity to take advantage of that, but since the tender originates here it doesn't really give a fair playing field to companies that may want to bid on that. So let me understand clearly then, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is saying that where such a situation occurs as I have just described, that in fact the five percent local preference would not be applied. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 229-15(5): Local Preference Component Of The Business Incentive Policy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: I believe, Mr. Speaker, I understand the Member's question. If the goods are it's an arrangement where Yellowknife business is given a local preference, it would make sense for local preference to be applied where those goods are going to be used in Yellowknife. If those goods are going to be used in Norman Wells, it wouldn't make sense for a Yellowknife business to get a local preference on the percentage of the goods that are going outside of Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 229-15(5): Local Preference Component Of The Business Incentive Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, then, if he considers it kind of administratively possible that not knowing exactly where the uptake is going to be sometimes on these standing offer agreements, is it administratively realistic to be able to prorata that particular tender? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 229-15(5): Local Preference Component Of The Business Incentive Policy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, that's a very good question. It's probably a procurement question and I'm not sure I know what administrative mechanisms we have at our disposal that are in place, but I would suggest that, yes, it must be difficult to understand what future demand will be and where the goods will eventually end up. I can certainly agree to get back to the Member with our methodology in trying to make this determination. But, really, the intent of the policy in the local preference is to advantage local businesses. If those goods are being purchased with every intention of sending them out to other regions of the Northwest Territories, then you have to question the application of local preference in that regard. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 229-15(5): Local Preference Component Of The Business Incentive Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then what opportunity does the Minister have to affect a situation like that? What is the mechanism for him to ensure that this is not occurring, that there are not local businesses getting local preference for things which are purchased for territorial distribution? What ability and what assurance can he offer, then, that he has the ability to actually delve into the system to that level of detail that would ensure that does not happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 229-15(5): Local Preference Component Of The Business Incentive Policy

HON. BRENDAN BELL: There are a couple of ways to deal with this, Mr. Speaker. I'm not an advocate of excessive red tape, but certainly the person who feels that the policy has been misapplied can appeal to our deputy minister standing committee on the BIP. If they don't feel that they get satisfaction there, it should be brought to my attention and I will go to the client department who is procuring the goods and ask them if their intention was to have local preference applied here and that they actually intend to use those goods locally. If they don't, we have to have a discussion with that client department about the application or misapplication of the BIP and I would certainly then endeavour to get back to the Member and to their constituent in that regard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 230-15(5): Administration Of Municipal Elections

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and it's in regards to municipal elections. Our office of the Chief Electoral Officer has evolved and matured over the years and runs the territorial elections, but the other big piece of the public government system are municipalities, which right now I understand have their elections run separately. I just wanted to ask the Minister, has any thought been given for efficiencies and for economies of scale, to look at having the Chief Electoral Officer's office oversee the elections both at the territorial level and the municipal level? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 230-15(5): Administration Of Municipal Elections

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had indicated earlier, in response to some questioning regarding municipal elections, that we would be reviewing the act. The act has been in place for some time now. Aside from some minor revisions, I think the act has pretty well stayed the way it was drafted in 1988. A number of issues have come forward over the years from communities, including reducing election periods and looking at ways of encouraging voter participation and changing the eligibility provisions and a number of other things. Those things will be brought forward when we do the review. We're doing the research right now and that would include also trying to align the act with the NWT Elections Act. So we're looking at those things and trying to do analysis of the benefits. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 230-15(5): Administration Of Municipal Elections

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that answer. Could the Minister as well just indicate what the timelines are for this paper? I recognize the questions on proxy votes. He indicated there was a paper coming forward, but he didn't think it would be done in time for this Assembly to act on. But could I just ask the Minister to confirm that again, please? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 230-15(5): Administration Of Municipal Elections

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are doing the research right now. We are putting the discussion paper together and we are anticipating that this document will be available for discussion amongst the stakeholders in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 231-15(5): Hiring Practices For Northern Nursing Graduates

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it's following up on the Member's statement that I made earlier. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister has been made aware of the concerns that have been brought to his attention and to my attention and some other colleagues in this House from the nursing grad class of 2007 at Aurora College. Some of the issues that I spoke about earlier comes from the latest meeting that the class had with the government Human Resources officials who, by stating some of the stuff that they did or not being very clear about where the government stood on making these new grads feel welcome into the very much needed human resource space of our health care system that they're feeling very distraught and demoralized. So I'd like to ask the Minister if he could use this opportunity to clarify whether he would be willing to revisit any of these policies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 231-15(5): Hiring Practices For Northern Nursing Graduates

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had been made aware of concerns at a presentation to the potential graduation class for 2007 of our Nursing Program. To set the record straight of how we've implemented the policy, there's still a commitment by this government to hire all of our graduating nurses in the Northwest Territories and find suitable employment for them in one of our health authorities around the territory. So the commitment's there. We will continue to honour that commitment. It includes a number of things. One, for example, Mr. Speaker, when a graduation class is done their program, we offer immediate employment through either Stanton or one of our other health authorities, other facilities in the Territories, and that is done even though they don't receive their full licence. They operate under a temporary licence and still would be under the guidance of a supervisor at that point. It usually takes about three months and then they would fall under the regular category of our hiring practices. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 231-15(5): Hiring Practices For Northern Nursing Graduates

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm of course glad to hear that the GNWT wants to do all it can to hire these grads, but I think everyone would agree that next to the decision to get married a career that one chooses is as serious as that. Like marriages, it's not a one-way street.

Only because government says we want to hire you all, that doesn't mean that the contract is done unless and until the contract arrangements are such that it's acceptable to those being hired. As they stand right now, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the government is going far enough to make these people want to work for the GNWT and not look elsewhere. Because knowing the environment, I mean, they have lots of choices to choose from. I would like to know why it is that the government is not willing to look at this policy of just paying them 90 percent. That's like nitpicking the 10 percent. The salary system is already graded, so why alienate them in that way and also why is there no difference between baccalaureate grads versus diplomas? I mean those are the little things, but big things that put a sour taste into these people's mouths. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 231-15(5): Hiring Practices For Northern Nursing Graduates

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we've done in the Northwest Territories is to allow for immediate hiring of the graduating nurses, and they would only be able to operate under a temporary licence until they get their full licence, and that usually takes about three months. It's that interim period that it's 90 percent. Once they receive their full licence and are then able to operate in one of our hospitals without supervision, then it goes up to the 100 percent salary. So we've gone one step further, I believe, than other jurisdictions, and that's make the graduating class available for immediate hire. That's why it's stepped at that location.

When it comes to the difference between diploma and baccalaureate nursing in the field, to get your licence both groups have to write the same exam and that's why it's treated that way. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 231-15(5): Hiring Practices For Northern Nursing Graduates

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the issue of not giving nursing grads the choice of specialties, I think we're all aware of the fact that in any chosen field there are such vast areas of practice and specialties that not everyone has the same interests or they have certain interests that they want to pursue. Will the Minister revisit this and consider giving some options to nursing grads for at least the employers to consider and work out situations that are agreeable to both parties? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 231-15(5): Hiring Practices For Northern Nursing Graduates

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd be glad to sit down with the department in that area to see what can be done. Again, our commitment is to offer jobs available. Part of our situation is that once we intake a lot of the grads, although a lot of them would like to work in our larger facilities and centres, we have to have other resources to ensure that training can occur in some of these areas, and that is part of our goal as a government, as well as to ensure that we have nursing coverage throughout the territory, and that's one of the other considerations that has to come into this. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 231-15(5): Hiring Practices For Northern Nursing Graduates

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the concerns also raised was the fact that these grads would be told that they would be screened out of any employment opportunities if they don't go with this plan and I wouldn't think that the Minister or this government would stand by that sort of statement and I would like to know if the Minister will make a commitment to see if that was in fact said and to correct the situation if that was the case. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 231-15(5): Hiring Practices For Northern Nursing Graduates

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to get further information as to what was stated and what the intent of what may have been delivered was hoping to get out for information. Our process is when the nursing graduate goes through the program and receives their licence, or even their temporary licence, we offer them employment throughout the territory. Of course we do have to take into consideration where we're needing nurses in the Northwest Territories. That would play a role. We can't guarantee a placement of their first choice. So when we do the process, we do ask them first choice and second choice as well. But I'll gladly look into this a little more to bring some clarity to the situation. Thank you.

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

Question 232-15(5): Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today we have heard over and over again on the great service that the NWT Literacy Council provides us in the Northwest Territories, building capacity in our communities through community-based training, professional development, community outreach, northern application learning resources, and research projects, Mr. Speaker. We have also heard, Mr. Speaker, over and over, that this government cannot or will not commit to saving this valuable resource. As I said in my Member's statement, Mr. Speaker, this issue is not about me. It's about the communities. This is very personal, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Premier, what has this government done to date to convey to the federal government our strong opposition to the recent literacy cuts? Mahsi.

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

Return To Question 232-15(5): Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said to an earlier question, I have written a fairly firm letter to the Prime Minister. Minister Dent has written to Minister Finley, and he has also spoken to Josee Verner, who is the Francophonie Minister. Mr. Speaker, we have written to them. I have spoken with Premiers on Monday about it. There was a conference call this morning as well where all the Premiers from across the country expressed concern. We have agreed that we will send a joint letter from all the

Premiers to the Prime Minister asking him to reconsider this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 232-15(5): Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all indicators suggest that the federal government will not change its mind with respect to its recent cuts in funding. In light of this, what strategies will this government put into place to show that literacy programming can continue uninterrupted for the benefit of Northwest Territories residents? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 232-15(5): Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the support of all the Premiers, we will hope that the Prime Minister will show some consideration to this. I think the Member is right; up to now he has said that he's not going to step into it. But I think if we get a letter, that one is being drafted now, for the chair of the counsel and federation, then he may still be convinced.

Mr. Speaker, as well, as I said earlier, we are also asking our departments that have mandates within the areas that are affected to take a look at how we deliver our programs and are there ways of us being able to work with the groups like the Literacy Council or the French literacy group as well. Are there ways of us doing things a little bit differently? But, Mr. Speaker, we are really reluctant to just step in every time the federal government pulls out of something or they'll continue to do this to us all the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 232-15(5): Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while we're waiting for the three Premiers to develop a strategy for I guess it's the federal counterparts, I think it's important to highlight those individuals in the communities and also organizations if this government has consulted with those that are most impacted by these cuts, the aboriginal and small community governments. Have they contacted them? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 232-15(5): Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, our government puts in about \$2 million a year into literacy and we want to see if there's a way of doing this more effectively. In answer to the Member's question, yes, the Minister of Education has spoken to the executive director of the Literacy Council about this issue and we are continuing to be creative on how we can do I'll call it damage control in this particular case, and at the same time still try to convince the federal government to rethink what they're doing here. But we are putting \$2 million to the Literacy Strategy. It is a fair bit of money and is there a way of us doing this more effectively. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 232-15(5): Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we're on the right approach in dealing with this issue with the three Premiers. But at the same time, we also need to put more pressure on this issue, especially involving aboriginal government counterparts, in respect to the programs. Mr. Speaker, what programs measurement will this government take to deal with the 69 percent of aboriginal workforce, my constituents, my community members, my family, whose literacy skills are keeping them from benefiting from our current economic boom? What is the government's position?

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

Further Return To Question 232-15(5): Federal Funding Reductions To Literacy Programs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we're aware that there are a lot of people who do need literacy training and we are putting in, as I said, the \$2 million to the Literacy Strategy. I don't know if that's enough or if we need more money in there. That's something we'll have to look at. We are continuing to deal with the federal government on it. Mr. Speaker, industry has also been a good partner. I think the Member raises a good point today and I think it's one that I'd like to take up on, and that is to talk to or communicate with some of the aboriginal leaders as well and to get them to support us in letters and verbally and so on in getting the federal government's attention on the need for literacy money, particularly in our jurisdiction. So, Mr. Speaker, I'll follow up on the aboriginal leaders. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Question 233-15(5): Monitoring Program Delivery At The Community Level

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess a question related to what I was talking about earlier in the week with respect to the affirmative action policy. But just to talk about housing and the importance of monitoring and assessing how the LHOs operate, the importance of monitoring and assessing how our education authorities are operating, how our health authorities are operating. I don't think that these duties and responsibilities that the government has to really take a grip of how much monitoring and assessing that we really need to continue to do at the regional level with every duty or responsibility that we hand down to the municipal level to ensure that there's good leadership being put in place and there's good governance ethics that are going to be followed and they're all in line with the civil society and with people's needs. I guess my question is to the Minister of Housing, the Honourable Joe Handley, with the universal agreements that the Housing Corporation has in place with the LHOs and there is a stipulation in there that the government has to monitor and assess the needs of the housing clients in the particular community. Is the emphasis going to be stronger over the next few years? I can look at the financial statements of an LHO and see some discrepancies and changes in monies moving around. People are complaining their houses aren't being repaired. Why? Well, if you look at it, the materials and supplies have been cut in half over the last two years. We didn't pick that up. That's why people are complaining and it all comes back to this House. I want a commitment from this government to put the

message out there to the regional staff, to the superintendents, the DEAs...

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have a question, Mr. Villeneuve?

MR. VILLENEUVE: Can we be stronger in the monitoring and assessment side of government programs and services at the community level? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 233-15(5): Monitoring Program Delivery At The Community Level

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we can always be stronger on the assessment side or on any of the things that we deliver as a government, and certainly we have to respect and live within the terms of the universal partnership agreements that are there. Mr. Speaker, there are two things that I'm going to do. One is, I want to meet with all of the regional directors within the next few weeks to hear from them the kind of issues that they are running into at the community level and the regional level. Second, Mr. Speaker, I would like to meet with the leaders in the community to talk to them about having them take more responsibility, more ownership for the delivery of the programs at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 233-15(5): Monitoring Program Delivery At The Community Level

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good that the Minister responsible for Housing is going to bring this stuff to the forefront, but we hire policy analysts all the time. We hire program officers and all these different jobs that we look at government policies, guidelines, regulations. Why can't we hire people that specifically deal with monitoring and assessing particular duties and responsibilities that we pass down to the community level? Why can't we set the bar and say, okay, what are you guys doing on a monthly basis, on a daily basis? Why can't we get people that actually go into these communities, find out the issues with their LHOs, DEAs, with their health authorities, and deal with them on a regular basis instead of on an annual basis, semi-annual reports that come out? Can we do that? Can we hire more people that actually deal with our residents directly? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 233-15(5): Monitoring Program Delivery At The Community Level

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I said, I haven't had an opportunity to get together with the regional directors yet, but I want to do that. I don't know if it is a question of hiring additional staff or whether it is a question of reassigning people. As I said, I want communities to have more autonomy rather than us looking over their shoulder all the time. But if we need somebody to do that kind of monitoring on a community-by-community basis, on a regular basis, and that is the feeling from the people who deliver these programs and from the local leaders, then I am prepared to figure out how we can reorganize to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 233-15(5): Monitoring Program Delivery At The Community Level

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important that we act as a big brother here. We do provide the funding. I think it is really important that we do ensure that we are looking over the shoulders of these autonomous bodies that we empower with a lot of public dollars to provide programs and services for the very fact that when we don't look over their shoulder, most of them are doomed for failure. It happens all the time in every community. You get set up and, in two years' time, the government is moving in to take over because they haven't done any monitoring or assessing and following up on making sure that they are on the right path. How are we going to make a positive change to ensure that we don't set up these autonomous bodies in communities for failure in the future?

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

Further Return To Question 233-15(5): Monitoring Program Delivery At The Community Level

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, one of the views I have on this is that housing is something that can be, and historically has been, delivered at the community level. We became involved and in some ways maybe direct too much from headquarters to the point where people just give up and they say, well, we don't really care because it is not our responsibility. I want to talk to the leaders about them taking more responsibility so that they own the houses and the challenges that are there. I believe there are good leaders in every community who can do that as long as they take ownership of the program. As long as they believe they are just delivering it for us and it is not theirs, then they are going to spend their time on things that are of more immediate concern to them. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we need to work with the local leaders who are very confident to be able to take on more management of their own issues. I think housing is very much a community-based issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Very short supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 233-15(5): Monitoring Program Delivery At The Community Level

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the point I am just trying to drive home, and I agree with the Minister, taking ownership is great at the community level. But also I just want to stress the need for, along with taking ownership, you have to be able to take some direction. That direction should come from this government when they are devolving responsibilities to the community level, because a lot of these communities don't have the capacity to lead their own people to go on the right path. Sometimes they sway. Although they do have the good intentions of going down the right path, they tend to sway a bit. That swaying is what I want to avoid in the future. How can we make sure that we are always on top and overlooking the direction that a particular body like an LHO is going to ensure that they are doing it the way it should be done? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 233-15(5): Monitoring Program Delivery At The Community Level

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have very experienced, capable technical people in our

headquarters. In the regions, we have good experienced journeymen. We have good experienced policy people and so on. Those people should be our resource to the local leaders. They should not be directing and telling them how to put a window in and how to build a house unless it is something else new and innovative. Mr. Speaker, as much as possible, I want to try to switch that role over so we are a resource to the local leaders as they meet their housing needs. Mr. Speaker, I believe in doing it that way, we are going to end up with much better houses and much better maintenance of houses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a constituent brought forward an issue to me of grave concern in the sense of fairness. Right now, we have a situation where the Yellowknife Airport has a parking ticket machine. Their concern was that nowhere else in the Northwest Territories has a parking machine. They are very concerned about the fact that why does Yellowknife have to unfairly pay for day parking when other areas in the Territories don't. There is no parking machine in Fort Simpson, Hay River. I can go on endlessly, but the fact is, at the very least, why isn't day parking completely fair, Mr. Speaker? So my question to the Minister of Transportation is, is the Minister aware of that fact? What is he doing about this in a fair and equitable way? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the parking at the Yellowknife Airport, Yellowknife is our capital. It has the largest population base, Mr. Speaker. If we allow the public to park there all the time, we will have absolutely no room for anybody to do any type of parking there, Mr. Speaker. This is one of the reasons that paid-for-parking was implemented. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister had some cotton balls in his ears while I was asking my question, so I will ask him to listen very closely. What is the area of fairness? Can the Minister speak to the area of fairness why Yellowknifers can't go to the airport when they pick up loved ones or whatever the case for day parking? Why can't that be free just like anywhere else in the Northwest Territories? Why are we subjected to pay hourly rates when nowhere else in the Northwest Territories has to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the Member that you have one hour to

pick up your loved one at the airport, because there is free parking at the airport under our current system and with our ticketing machine there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can see Cabinet has done a fine job, because he didn't have that attitude when he was over here.

---Laughter

They must have held him up and brainwashed him. But, Mr. Speaker, that is another story for another time. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Minister is correct; you are allowed to be there for one hour, but if people want to go for lunch out there or whatever the case may be, or if they want to fly to a community for the day and fly back at the end of the day, they have to pay up to a maximum of \$10 for that one day. We have weekly rates of \$50 and we also have monthly rates of \$150. This constituent brought this concern forward about fairness was not about getting in and getting out and the issue of parking; it was about a daily fee. The administration of a daily fee or that ticket seems very unfair and onerous. I am talking about fairness. Would the Minister agree to look into this issue and look at eliminating day fees, period, for Yellowknifers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just with respect to eliminating any fees, I just have to reiterate again that the pay for services is instituted again to discourage all the parking. That is hard to distinguish if one were to be there one hour or one day, hence the ticketing machine but that really does it. It kind of puts a time limit factor and we just cannot have everybody be parking there all day, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

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

Supplementary To Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess he is still a new Minister. I heard that, if there is something worth grabbing onto, it is the administration. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, the first person there in the morning can say that there shouldn't be any vehicles there unless they have special tags or stamps proving that they are there for an extended period of time. The same person at the end of the day could also say no vehicles should be left, so they could administer it quite easily. Mr. Speaker, I would like this Minister to look into how much this territorial government has wasted on that parking machine out there, on keeping it fixed, because it does not work on a consistent and fair basis. I think it is a waste of time. We should be issuing weekly and monthly tickets only, and clearly saving our money and spending it wisely by not having a day fee process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just with respect to the Member's request, the best and fairest way to do it is to use the existing system we do have. We have spent a lot of money to finally get it working.

---Laughter

It is working. We are tracking the amount of complaints we get for the machine there, Mr. Speaker. There has been very little recently. Mahsi cho.

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

Supplementary To Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How much money have we spent on this machine to date in the last three years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 234-15(5): Parking Fees At The Yellowknife Airport

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a level of detail that I do not have with me right now. I can answer that in due time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Question 235-15(5): Funding Programs For Youth Centres

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yellowknife gets everything, even five questions.

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Mr. Speaker, we all spoke of our frustration of the funding cuts and some of the youth funding. My question today will be directed to the Minister of MACA, Mr. Michael McLeod. I would like to ask him if the Government of the Northwest Territories, and more specifically his department, do they have programs for funding youth drop-in centres? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Michael McLeod.

Return To Question 235-15(5): Funding Programs For Youth Centres

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I guess the response would be that we don't have any program funding directed specifically to drop-in centres. We have a number of programs that are youth related and a number of programs that are utilized in the drop-in centres, especially the Community Initiatives Program, where a lot of the communities have taken the opportunity to apply for this program to build up the infrastructure or renovate the facilities to be used for drop-in centres. There are other programs that we have had through the youth core that had been accessed and also the federal government has a federal program that provides O and M dollars for the friendship centres to operate as drop-in centres. However, we don't have a specific program that would provide those kinds of funds. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 235-15(5): Funding Programs For Youth Centres

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the recent announcement of territorial or federal budget cuts, now is the time for this government to find something positive out of this and maybe look at funding youth drop-in centres, because they are an important part of most communities. I would like to ask the Minister if his department would consider seed funding communities or people who want to start their own youth drop-in centres. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 235-15(5): Funding Programs For Youth Centres

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the concept of drop-in centres is something that has really taken off in the last couple of years since the pot of money for youth funding has come available. We have a million dollar budget. A lot of the communities are taking advantage of it. We, as a government, have recognized that there is a gap in the funding available for operations for the friendship centres. Most of the communities are able to access funding through the community initiatives or own-source revenues to construct or upgrade facilities. However, there has been a void. The federal government program has been able to address some of it. However, there are still a lot of communities that haven't been able to access it. We are looking at the situation. We would like to be able to step in to work with the communities. We have to have more discussion around this issue. The department is hosting a Youth Program manager's conference or information sharing session at the end of this month in November. We are also meeting with the federal department's Youth Program managers early in the New Year, in January. We are hoping that we will be able to build a case over this coming new fiscal year. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 235-15(5): Funding Programs For Youth Centres

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for that. The Minister was mentioning that he was hoping to build a case. If the Minister builds a case, then who would finance the youth drop-in centres? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 235-15(5): Funding Programs For Youth Centres

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of options of how we can address the issue and addressing the concern about O and M dollars for youth centres. We can always look internally. Our budget is \$1 million. We may be able to shift our programming around. That is why we have to talk with some of the Youth Program managers. My preference would be to find some new dollars. My preference would be to find new dollars within the ranks of the federal government. We would like to have those discussions. We don't have all of the pieces put together yet. We are working on doing the research and putting all the options forward so we can

have discussions with the people across the territory and come to some conclusion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 236-15(5): Contracting Guidelines And Residency Requirements

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Krutko. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Kam Lake industrial park is home to a number of businesses and local contractors. These local contractors, Mr. Speaker, have shops. They have workers. They have, in some cases, a tremendous amount of overhead here in Yellowknife. Public Works and Services has a contract that I want to talk about today. That is an as and when maintenance contract that, to my knowledge, was awarded to a non-local resident who is not from this region who lives and conducts business from a travel trailer. In fact, to understand, Mr. Speaker, that the contractor's main place of residence over the summer months was, in fact, in one of our local campgrounds. Mr. Speaker, this, of course, would be in contravention of the Territorial Parks Act if he is indeed conducting business from one of our territorial parks. I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services when contracting as and when contracts, are there any guidelines about contracting with businesses who have a legitimate address and are, in fact, local? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Krutko.

Return To Question 236-15(5): Contracting Guidelines And Residency Requirements

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have guidelines in regard to contracts we do let and in regards to the individuals which have to have a fixed address ensuring that they do conduct a business. Also, we check the BIP registry to make sure they are a territorial registered business under the business incentive policy. Again, we do have checks and balances in place to ensure that we have northern contractors who are who they say they are and, more importantly, that they do have to have a fixed address. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 236-15(5): Contracting Guidelines And Residency Requirements

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you can well imagine, there is concern in the local contracting community here when an individual can, in fact, not have a local address and, in fact, get awarded contracts, because they do not have the overhead that local contractors have. This practice shouldn't be allowed to happen. I would like to ask the Minister, and I had asked the former Minister of Public Works and Services questions about this contract so he is probably a little bit more aware of it, but I want to ask the new Minister if he will, in fact, take a look at the guidelines to ensure that this practice is not allowed to continue to happen. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 236-15(5): Contracting Guidelines And Residency Requirements

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the Member to try to come to the bottom of this. I am sure that no one is taking advantage of our contracting policies and guidelines and finding loopholes. If anything, we should be ensuring that the guidelines are being followed and that this case, if someone has violated, I would like to be aware of that. So I look forward to working with the Member to get to the bottom of this. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 236-15(5): Contracting Guidelines And Residency Requirements

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, this as and when contract for maintenance is up in November. I would like to ask the Minister, I know he made a commitment, but if he could certainly get together with me here in the near future to go over the details of the case that I have just explained to him, I would be more than happy to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I didn't hear a question there. Mr. Krutko, did you want to respond?

Further Return To Question 236-15(5): Contracting Guidelines And Residency Requirements

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will get together with the Member and hopefully have that problem resolved. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Time for question period has expired. Honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to orders of the day number 5. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5 on the Order Paper, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We'll return it item 5. Mr. Lafferty.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a while back there were some people in the audience that have left already, but I would like to mention them. They were constituents of mine from my communities. Margaret Mantla is my grandmother.

---Applause

Dora Marie Lafferty, my mom; and my brother Edzo Lafferty and his son Silas. Also I would like to recognize another group that were here in the audience, I'm sure they're still here, Cate Sills, NWT Literacy Council; Brad Heath; Lisa Campbell; Brenda Green and Karen Lake, all from the Literacy Council. Welcome. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Written questions. Honourable Member from Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 30-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister for Health and Social Services:

1. Can the Department of Health and Social Services provide the details of the report that Dr. Remmers of Calgary did in regard to the continuation and modernization of the Sleep Centre at Stanton Territorial Hospital?
2. Please provide the recommendation of the working group that was established to review whether or not NWT Health Insurance would cover CPAP/oxygen machines?
3. Why are NWT residents requiring the use of CPAP machines not fully insured?
4. What is the current level of wait times for a person requiring access to a sleep lab to acquire a proper level of treatment?
5. What is the current disposition of the Stanton Territorial Hospital Sleep Centre?
6. Can the Department provide the initial draft of the staffing review of Stanton Territorial Hospital that was conducted in April of this year?
7. Can the Department explain how nurses and other health care professionals can have their own collective bargaining unit? Please provide the proper steps that could see the implementation of a stand alone allied health care professionals bargaining unit.

Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Written questions. Honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Written Question 31-(5): Airport Runway Extensions

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

1. When will the Department of Transportation bring forth an update to its Airports Strategy and review the many important issues that pertain to small community airports? Will the department provide additional resources in terms of extending community runways? Will the department partner with industry groups in pursuing such initiatives?
2. Fort Good Hope and Deline have seen an increase in resource exploration and Colville Lake is already in need of implements to its airport. What priority will be given to extending the airport runways in these communities, as they are all isolated, off-road communities?
3. When will the Minister of Transportation come to the Sahtu communities to discuss the Airports Extension Strategy?

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Written questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Written Question 32-15(5): Photo Identification Cards

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister for Transportation.

Can the department confirm that it can supply photo ID cards to all NWT residents over 18, to assist these

residents to comply with proposed federal voting requirements for voter ID?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Written questions. Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Written Question 33-15(5): Yellowknife Airport Runway Extension

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

1. Provide the details as to what is the strategy of extending the Yellowknife Airport from 7,500 feet to 10,000 feet.
2. Please provide all work and details related to an extension to date.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. Petitions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod. Sorry, Mr. McLeod. Reports of standing and special committees. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 64-15(5): Performance And Accountability Report, GNWT 2005-2006

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Performance and Accountability Report, Government of the Northwest Territories 2005-2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Tabled Document 65-15(5): Petition To The Public Utilities Board Against Proposed Inuvik Gas Rate Increase

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to table a letter from the mayor-elect of the Town of Inuvik, Mr. Derek Lindsay, convening a petition to the Public Utilities Board signed by 152 Inuvik residents against the proposed Inuvik gas rate increase. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 11-15(5): Dissolution Of The 15th Legislative Assembly

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 2nd, 2006, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Governor-in-Council of the Government of Canada to dissolve the 15th Legislative Assembly on August 31, 2007, to permit a general election for the 16th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to be held on October 1, 2007.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Notices of motion. Honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Motion 12-15(5): Extended Adjournment Of The House To February 7, 2007

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 2nd, 2006, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, November 2, 2006, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, February 7, 2007; and further, that any time prior to February 7, 2007, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at a time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Motion 13-15(5): Appointment Of Chief Electoral Officer

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 2nd, 2006, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that this Legislative Assembly, by virtue of section 3 of the Elections Act, recommends to the Commissioner the appointment of Ms. Sandra Arbery as Chief Electoral Officer for the Northwest Territories for a term of two years commencing January 6, 2007; and further, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner that the appointment of Mr. Glen McLean as Chief Electoral Officer be revoked effective January 6, 2007; and furthermore, that the Legislative Assembly hereby express its deep appreciation for the service of Mr. McLean to the House and all the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Notices of motion. Honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Motion 14-15(5): Restoration Of Funding For Federal Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 2nd, 2006, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories convey to the federal government its strong objection to the recent cuts to federal programs in the Northwest Territories, and press the federal government to reinstate these funds; and further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories convey to the federal government its strong opposition to any further cuts to federal programs in the Northwest Territories in advance of a resource revenue sharing agreement.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Motion 15-15(5): Appointments To Standing Committees And The Board of Management

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 2nd, 2006, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that the Legislative Assembly approve the appointment of the Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger, to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, to the Standing Committee on Social Programs as an alternate, to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures as an alternate, and to the Board of Management as an alternate; and further, that the Legislative Assembly rescinds the appointment of the Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya, as an alternate to the Board of Management and approves his appointment as a full member of the Board of Management.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 8-15(5): Reducing Maximum Percentage Of Income Chargeable For Social Housing, Carried

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I have a motion.

WHEREAS the cost of rent for social housing is set at a maximum of 32 percent of household income;

AND WHEREAS there are families living in poorly maintained social housing units that are paying more in rent than what the unit's condition merits;

AND WHEREAS many of these residents are paying maximum rent for units that have not been kept up or renovated by the landlord for over 10 years, a situation that would not be tolerated in a larger community;

AND WHEREAS the Housing Corporation, like any other landlord under the Residential Tenancies Act, is required to maintain their rental units in a state of good repair and fit for human habitation;

AND WHEREAS many tenants are either unaware of or reluctant to assert their rights to bring concerns to the rental officer pursuant to the Residential Tenancies Act;

AND WHEREAS most residents of smaller communities do not have access to market rental units, and have their options limited to building their own units or renting social housing units;

AND WHEREAS in the case of high wage earners living in social housing, the high rent severely limits their ability to save for a down payment for their own units or deal with past debts owed by the Housing Corporation for back rent;

AND WHEREAS the maximum rent of 32 percent of household income is based on a southern Canadian standard that is not reasonable when applied to NWT communities where the cost of necessities such as food and fuel is much higher;

AND WHEREAS seniors living in their own homes pay all costs of homeownership and there are many seniors living in facilities that are not owned by the NWT Housing Corporation who pay a significant portion of their income in rent;

AND WHEREAS seniors living in social housing units owned by the NWT Housing Corporation presently pay no rent;

AND WHEREAS current Department of Education, Culture and Employment and NWT Housing Corporation policies and programs are in need of adjustment to recognize individual circumstances;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member of Monfwi, that this Assembly strongly recommends the Department of Education, Culture and Employment change the maximum percentage of income that can be charged as rent for social housing from 32 percent to 18 percent for non-market communities and from 32 percent to 25 percent for communities with a rental and private housing market;

AND FURTHER that NWT Housing Corporation do a better job in explaining their homeownership programs and in adjusting these programs to meet the needs of potential clients;

AND FURTHERMORE that the NWT Housing Corporation examine the issue of rental rates for those units that are old or in poor condition and provide clear direction to the local housing authorities on how to calculate condition discounts in calculating rent;

AND FURTHERMORE that the issue of free rent for seniors living in housing owned by the NWT Housing Corporation be re-examined and addressed in the interest of fairness to all seniors;

AND FURTHERMORE that the Department of Justice recognize that a rental officer based in Yellowknife may not meet the needs of all territorial residents and consider the need for this office to have a regional presence.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order; however, before I open the floor to debate on this motion, I'm going to call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. I will allow the mover of the motion to open the debate. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to distinguish in this motion here that the 32 percent figure is an arbitrary figure used by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in southern Canada as a recommendation of the maximum percentage of income that should be spent on shelter costs.

Shelter costs include rent, mortgage, heating fuel and taxes. By choosing 32 percent as the maximum percentage of income used in calculating rent, the department has ignored the high cost of goods and services in our communities. Paying 32 percent of your income for housing may be alright in larger centres where you can buy a litre of milk for \$2.50, but it's a little bit different in Sachs Harbour where you are expected to pay \$6.36 for the same litre of milk.

Mr. Speaker, this is a total household income. Many children earn...(inaudible)...wages living with their parents out of necessity or convenience. Some parents are reluctant to charge their children rent and some children just refuse to pay any. I hate to say it, but some children take advantage of their parents and this is a form of elder

abuse. The point being is that if it is your name on the lease, you are responsible to pay the rent regardless of your personal circumstances. There are many elders living off a fixed income such as pensions, who, because other people live with them, pay more for their rent than their pension pays. There has to be some consideration of individual circumstances of each family in determining their rent calculations.

Mr. Speaker, during the pre-budget consultations, we heard from many residents who are concerned with the state of the housing units that they were renting. Many people talked about having no scheduled maintenance on their units in 10 years. I know elders who were promised repairs or modifications to their units several years ago that are still waiting today.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great dilemma for many of my constituents. Is it better to rent or to buy? The present way rent is calculated does not allow people to make their own choices. Any way you look at it, you keep having to rely on the Education, Culture and Employment office or the NWT Housing Corporation office.

Mr. Speaker, the high cost of living, the high cost of power, again goes back to this issue here and this motion here. The power in Deline was 57 cents per kilowatt; \$2.66 per kilowatt in Colville Lake; Mr. Speaker, it's 11 cents per kilowatt in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, with the help of this motion, we can look at some equity and look at the housing units, take into consideration the high cost of living in our communities and that we ask that this motion be seriously considered by the people in Cabinet over there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my language, I talked about the motion that is in front of us today. I seconded the motion because I firmly believe that we need to change the existing system we have in place from 32 percent or 25 percent, whatever number is being thrown out there, we need to reduce that number.

The motion is before us. During the pre-budget consultation tour, we heard over and over, in almost every community, that this is a huge issue. In my riding, Mr. Speaker, and also Sahtu, both of us raised this issue on numerous occasions, and also other Members as well, that this is becoming a bigger issue than it is now. There are some members in communities that owe \$76,000, to be exact, Mr. Speaker. They are still paying \$2,400 a month based on the percentage we have in place.

Those policies or regulations need to be amended. That is why we are here, as Members of the Legislative Assembly. We will try to work with Cabinet to deal with this issue. It's been going on in my region since 1992 and also back to 1997 when this whole issue arose at that time. Before, they were paying \$32 a month in 1997. After that, they started to pay more. A lot of elders we spoke to have indicated that there are tenant relations in the community, but those tenant relations have never set foot in the community...Sorry, in a household to add on who is living there and how much they are making. It's all based on perception in the communities. Not every community is like that, Mr. Speaker, but in my communities there are many issues around that.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks back or a week back, I asked the Minister of Housing if there could be an investigation into these allegations and issues that are uprising in my community. It's a serious, serious issue that needs to be dealt with. The Premier is also listening and the former Minister Krutko has indicated to him that there is an issue here that needs to be tackled.

Mr. Speaker, just getting back to this motion, I would like to reiterate that I firmly believe that we need to do something here today, so we can take this back to the impacted communities, those people who are impacted, the elders and even the youth who are growing up now. A lot of young people are saying what's the use of working if we have to pay \$2,400 a month? We are supposed to be proactive as government to say these are the incentives for you to continue with your employment. I realize where income support is coming from to say we are trying to get people off income support. At the same time, people are working out there making a fairly good amount of money in the industries, the three industries that we have, but we are going after 32 percent of their salary. Is that right, Mr. Speaker? Is that the way to go as the Government of the Northwest Territories? I certainly hope not. I certainly don't think so.

That's why I supported this motion. I feel like we need to deal with this issue today. Let's fix it today. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the motion, there are aspects of this motion that I question how thought out perhaps they are. At the same time, I think what this motion represents is a whole lot of frustration with the way the housing operates and with the programs and policies that they have in the communities; their lack of flexibility to deal with social housing clients. A lot of times when you talk about people who are working in industry and that, they really shouldn't be social housing clients necessarily, but this government needs to do more to figure out ways to get them into homeownership. I know the Housing Corporation has some programs that encourage homeownership, but I don't think it's enough. I think if you are paying the maximum rent and you are making that kind of money, I think it would be a much more advisable thing to put your money into your own home and into a mortgage rather than paying your rent to the NWT Housing Corporation.

When I say, Mr. Speaker, that there are some things about this motion that may not have been thought through as thoroughly as they should be, the number for the percentage of reduction is something that is fairly arbitrary. It's a number that we came up with, but I don't think it has with it the kind of financial analysis that needs to take place when we talk about the higher cost of living in the non-market communities, for example. I think there are ways of verifying that and perhaps coming up with something a little more thought out for a financial policy point of view.

Another ramification of lowering these rents as indicated in this motion is going to be that the local housing authorities are going to have less capital, less money to work with. What is that going to translate into? Is that going to translate into less workers to do the maintenance on the units? Is that going to result in job reductions in the communities? Unless this government has a whole lot more money to pour into housing that I am not aware of, I

don't really know what all the spin-off effects are going to be of reducing the revenue to the Housing Corporation via the local housing authorities.

I support the concept of the motion. I think more detail has to be worked out. People, like I said, that are being tasked with \$2,400 a month for rent in perhaps somewhat less than desirable accommodations should be helped with access to land. They should be helped with mortgage financing. There should be other complementary services that are made available that can encourage people to become homeowners. There is a lot of benefit to homeowners that are hard to necessarily quantify completely. Once people own their own home and invest more in that, I think they take better care of it. I think there is a lot of pride and self-sufficiency and feelings of independence which are very helpful for our people if they can get access to having their own home.

I think we need different approaches to different situations and different approaches in different communities, because I think the challenges are unique. I think this motion here represents a lot of frustration with what we did see in the pre-budget consultation visits to the communities. We saw houses that are in disrepair. The government should be ashamed of even collecting rents on some of these units, they are in such disrepair. I have not been convinced that the Housing Corporation has a good handle on what needs to be done in terms of maintenance, repairs and replacement, and perhaps tearing down in some instances. I have not had any communication yet that would convince me that the Housing Corporation has a good handle on what needs to be done with respect to the housing inventory that they are responsible for.

Like I said, this is a collage of a lot of different ways of saying the system is broke. We expect some action on it being fixed. I just wanted to say that I really resist and resent the idea that people living in our communities do not have access to homeownership. If they can find land, they should be shown the respect of being able to own their own home. If you don't have the ability to build the homes at the community level, then bring in manufactured homes. There are very nice, high-quality manufactured homes that can be brought in and set up on lots. People should not feel forced to be in social housing if it's their desire to be outside of that. So we have to think outside the box on this. We need to become more creative and ensure that the solutions are tailor made to the residents that this is intended to serve.

I will support the motion, but may I put the caveat on it, please, that when we talk about these reductions, that there be some correlation between the reduction and the cost of living in the community. There needs to be some further analysis made. Please, also, that the reduction in income to those housing authorities is well explained to us in terms of the impact they may have in lowering the level of service and lessening the number of jobs in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am going to be speaking today in favour of the motion. I want to begin by saying it's interesting listening to my colleagues, especially my colleagues from the regions and

Members who have small communities and the majority of housing issues that are created in the small communities.

It is interesting to listen to them talk about the condition a lot of these housing units are in and the fact that folks are imposed at having to pay 32 percent. Mr. Speaker, I don't agree with this figure. The reason I don't agree with that being imposed on our residents here is it is a national standard. We have spent the last two years here talking about the cost of living in the Northwest Territories. It is absolutely more money to live in Colville Lake, Tulita, Behchoko or Whati than it is to live in southern Canada. Why we would impose a national standard of 32 percent of household income to go towards rent is beyond me. I think we have to examine this situation.

It is much like one of the Ministers going to FPT meetings listening to their provincial counterparts say, well, this national move towards super service centres in the provinces works. Well, yes, it might work in the provinces, but we are not a province. We are 42,000 people. We need some made-in-the-north solutions to housing. Mr. Speaker, I think we can get there. It is just a matter of us working something out.

I think this motion...again, it was mentioned by my colleague, Mrs. Groenewegen. It speaks to absolute frustration that Members are feeling in regard to housing and why the 32 percent is being imposed is something, again, it is a national standard. Why do we accept that? Most of my worry, Mr. Speaker, is the smaller communities. The market communities, yes, it is fair game especially in the larger centres. People should pay a proportionate amount that they can pay. Here in Yellowknife or Hay River, they have more of a wherewithal to be able to pay that because the cost of living isn't as high as it is in some of our isolated communities.

I think also what we could look at doing is, when we talk about other programs that the government has in terms of business development, they categorize communities. I don't know why we wouldn't look at doing that as well, like go on a cost of living ratio and you can see which communities. We do it too with the supplement that we give to employees. If they live in different communities, they get more money. I don't know why we don't look at judging communities by the cost that it actually takes to live there. I think we need to look at doing something like that and maybe develop one, two or three categories of communities and address it from that angle, Mr. Speaker. Again, I do want to say that I do support the motion and will be voting in favour of it. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I will support the motion as provided by my honourable colleague Mr. Yakeleya. About a month ago, I had an opportunity to go to the communities with the previous Minister of Housing, David Krutko. He heard very well some of the conditions of the units. He heard about the problems people are having in regards to the rent scale. I think, with regard to the 32 percent national average, apparently it is pretty high for up North. To go arbitrarily from 32 to 18 for non-market, that is an arbitrary number that we have come to decide on, Mr. Speaker.

Over the years, like Mrs. Groenewegen said, people are getting frustrated. I think it is about time, at least in my riding and I am sure across the Territories, that they have been asking this government why the 32 or 25 percent or

whichever it was before? Why not go the net income versus gross? I think by bringing something like this forward, maybe we are listening to some of the people that are living in some of these units.

The previous Minister, when we travelled, he heard about 14 or 15 people staying in one unit. It is unbelievable in these communities. It shouldn't be happening. The conditions of the units, there was one lady in Paulatuk who said she waited five years to get her place repaired. It just so happened that they are getting it repaired this year. She was very happy that we did make that trip. It gave her some kind of comfort that the corporation is trying to do something in regard to repairs of some of these older units.

Most of my colleagues already indicated that most of their concerns have been raised, but I will support the motion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I will also support the motion put forward by the honourable Member, but I have some issues with the numbers also. Thirty-two to 18, 32 to 25, it is all questionable just due to the fact that we all know that income levels in the NWT have risen quite significantly over the last five years due to all the mining development that has been going on. Interestingly enough, with the 76 percent rise in the average income level in the NWT, there has been no correlating or corresponding decrease in the number of income recipients that we have, income support recipients that we have here in the NWT, Mr. Speaker. I think that alone just speaks volumes with regards to how our housing is taking away a lot of that income that people are willing and able to go out and make, but they decide not to just because of sometimes the rent scale is one of the big issues in the communities that people deal with. When you go out and you see your income is going to go up by \$30,000 from one month to the next because you are getting a job in the mine, and your rent goes up by \$1,500 from \$250, that is a big bite. People just aren't willing to take that bite. Therefore, that is why we say the rent scale policy that we have in place is a disincentive for a lot of people who want to get jobs and make a decent living for themselves.

I know also, on the other side of the coin, the Housing Corporation has to raise a certain percentage amount of money to put back into the public housing initiative just out of rent alone. That is getting people to pay their fair share of rent. What is fair is different from what the government deems fair to what residents deem fair in the outlying regions, the isolated communities, the high cost of living. They all have a play on it. I know the government takes that into consideration, but maybe just not in the emphasis that the individual that is paying the rent does. On that, with the amount of money that the government gets back from actually getting out of people's pockets the amount of rent for public housing is quite low compared to the subsidies that the ECE puts back into the Public Housing Program. But I think the real issue is how do we get people to be more responsive to why they have to pay their fair share of rent? I think that is the real issue here and not so much of how much you are willing to pay, how much the government is willing to charge you, but I think it is more or less why are people going to pay the amount that they pay? We will take in all kinds of factors like the

condition of the house, your family dynamics, community dynamics, employment rates and whatnot, but I think people have to get almost like a picture drawn for them to show them that for X amount of years, you have been living in this unit and paying this amount of money, so as you take on a job, your rent is going to go up this high for X amount of months in order to recover some of that subsidy that the government has been giving to you for the last five or 10 years. People don't know that. There is just no information provided to them to say here are the numbers. Your government punched out \$50,000 for your rent over the last five years. You put in \$500 into that rent. Here is the discrepancy. Joe Blow next door has put in \$10,000 and he is living in a worse unit. He has a job but the government doesn't pay as much in subsidies. I think people have to see that. They have to see the comparison from the guy across the street to the guy down the street. Everybody in the community has to be put on the same playing field and saying, okay, this is why it is different for you, you, you and you. We don't have that information. The clients don't get that information. Therefore, everybody is in their own little world with the LHOs and tensions just build at the community level.

Again, I am not really fully supportive of the 32 to 25 to the 18, but I will have to support it because it is included in the motion anyway, which drives a strong message home that something is wrong with our rent scale policy and we have to change it. We have been talking about it for 10 years here and nothing has come of it, so I hope with this motion coming forward that they will actually do something about it and something will actually get people to go to work and pay their fair share. That is what I deem fair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. To the motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also speak in favour of this motion and just offer brief comments. Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that, in this House, the housing issue has been a topic of priority and a topic of discussion for the last three years, but it is one that I think, looking back, if we don't do something urgently with the remaining time of our Assembly, it will turn out to be a real big failure on the part of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Lately, on CNN, in anticipation of the U.S. mid-term election next Tuesday, they want a program called broken government. It is a series of why things are not working or how things are not working. When I look at our various issues that Members, our colleagues from communities, bring to this floor about the housing issue, I think we are really looking at a broken housing system. I believe, Mr. Speaker, this motion speaks to one little aspect of that. We hear over and over again about how in communities families are living in these houses that are in very poor condition and they are paying a rent of upward of \$2,500, Mr. Speaker. My riding of Range Lake has lots of nice, fancy houses. Twenty-five hundred dollars in a mortgage will get you a really nice house. That is about twice as much as I would pay in my mortgage. Maybe I shouldn't be revealing all my secrets.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, there is something wrong with our system when we have a situation where people are living in these houses that are in terrible conditions paying this enormous

amount of rent that most people in Yellowknife would not even...People don't think of that when people living in public housing will pay that much money. The government has no plan as to what they are going to do with accumulating arrears on the part of our residents. They are just going to jack up the numbers. We are all going to have residents owing \$50,000, \$60,000, \$70,000, because the government hasn't figured out how to address the implication and impact of the policy that it has.

I think this motion speaks to the government and asking the government to look at this thing and change it and asking, through this motion, to decrease the rate from 32 percent to 18 percent or 25 percent. It is just a one small measure on the part of this side of the floor to say you have to do something about that.

Mr. Speaker, on a positive note, though, I want to say that we recently had a briefing with the NWT Housing Corporation under its...We have a new Minister, the Premier, and also a new president of the Housing Corporation. I have to tell you, as chair of the committee and a Member sitting in this House, I was very impressed with that presentation and a level of willingness that the new president was showing in tackling some of these issues and that the corporation is working on some innovative ways to refine and streamline the programs that they have. I would like to send this motion as a challenge to the new president that this is an issue that the corporation really has to tackle with.

I sometimes wonder, Mr. Speaker, in our pre-budget tour to communities, there is not one place where obviously the housing issue has not come out. I can't help but think that so many of the Housing Corporation policies are so blunt and is so all-sweeping and not dealing with the small issues, like the corporation is taken over by all these huge projects whether it is Novel or market housing initiative or affordable housing. You can't fix the smallest little things. Why is it that Members have to bring up issues over and over again and nothing gets done?

We have a situation in Wekweeti. It was like two hours of what is wrong with the housing, how people get into their housing. They can't call anybody to fix it because the Housing Corporation doesn't allow them to fix it, and yet the Housing Corporation is not going to provide repair programs to these houses. What is the plan of the Housing Corporation in terms of making housing available to these people? If we have a situation where we have multi families living in a house, what is the plan of the Housing Corporation to introduce some kind of private market so that there could be some choices for people? I don't see any of those visions. In the absence of a clear plan and clear vision on the part of the Housing Corporation to address these issues, we are going to keep on giving them these motions that are going to be a little push on the side of the Housing Corporation to have them visit and look at the situation in a more in-depth way. So, Mr. Speaker, in that vein, I am going to be voting in favour of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will speak in favour of the motion. Like a couple of my colleagues, there is some reservation. It is in the word for word, 100 percent endorsement of the motion as before us. Like Mrs. Groenewegen said, it is an indication of the

frustration that we continue to feel in here, and, of course, we are only reflecting what we are hearing from our constituents who are tenants of the system or clients of the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, there are one, two, three, four, five actions that we are requesting in the motion here, Mr. Speaker, the first of which suggests that the maximum percentage of income be charged as rent to drop from 32 to 18 percent in non-market communities and 32 to 25 percent where there are markets. Mr. Speaker, I think this particular request speaks to a lack of flexibility that the Housing Corporation demonstrates. The 32 percent that we now see as the ceiling as a percentage of income that can be charged is, I understand, a national threshold. It hasn't really been tested here in the NWT. Does it really make sense in our circumstance here? Is there some flexibility and readiness to adapt to circumstances here, Mr. Speaker?

The second request is that the corporation does a better job in explaining their programs and adjusting programs to meet the needs. Again, a plea here, Mr. Speaker, for flexibility, but also that it says that the corporation has really lost sense of a pretty basic requirement when you are in the service industry, which I really think the corporation is to be able to communicate and talk to and inform your customers, your clients. We are really behind the eight ball in the corporation making and helping its clients and customers become familiar with what it has on the table.

The third request, Mr. Speaker, is that the Housing Corporation examine the issue of rental rates for those units that are older, in poor condition and don't warrant what may be being charged. Mr. Speaker, if the issue is shabby housing, let's fix the shabby housing. I don't think that it helps anybody to be charged a lower rate but still have to put up with a unit that is substandard, drafty, mouldy, expensive to heat and operate and may even be unsafe. This is not the way to handle a poor housing situation, Mr. Speaker, just to charge less rent.

The Housing Corporation, in the last couple of years, put on quite a promotional campaign claiming its 30 Years of Experience From the Ground Up, I think the program was called, but I really don't see how this is anything to celebrate when so many of us have seen and heard this is not a corporation that has an acceptable record at all of looking after its housing stock and giving good value to the tenants.

Mr. Speaker, the fourth action that we're requesting in this motion is the issue of free rent for seniors living in housing owned by the corporation. We want that overall area to be re-examined and addressed in the interest of fairness to all seniors, and indeed, Mr. Speaker, I would say that providing a free no-charge-at-all service such as shelter is not one of the values that I come into this Legislative Assembly with. I think everyone has some obligation, some requirement, to pay something toward the cost of shelter, and this is not realistic and it's certainly not a sustainable position to be able to allow free rent, Mr. Speaker.

The final action that we're looking at here talks about the role of the rentals officer, and this goes into another department, of course under the Department of Justice, Mr. Speaker. The role of the rentals officer is someone who works on behalf of both tenants and landlords to make sure that laws and rules are followed and to help out when disputes happens. It's suggesting here that a rental

officer based only in Yellowknife I believe with limited resources to travel around the NWT is not adequate, and that the services of the rentals officer should be more easily available in other regions. I think that's a pretty good recommendation. I guess I would remind colleagues that, indeed, the Residential Tenancies Act is up for review and revision hopefully during the life of our term here, Mr. Speaker, and maybe there is something in there that we could address.

But overall, as I said a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, I will speak in favour of the motion, because it does signal so many things that we are continuing to encounter and that we do not see a turnaround on. Mr. Speaker, the motion is a message about a corporation that is adrift in its purpose. It is not showing us any new ideas; it is not invigorating confidence about being able to cope with the huge housing challenges that face us in the future, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to support this motion in a very cautious way. Mr. Speaker, I believe that housing needs to be fair and competitive as well as safe. To hear that we have poorly maintained social housing and to find out that we have housing -- and I've seen it firsthand, Mr. Speaker -- that needs serious attention, to me that's very concerning, especially when we are the landlord of social housing, we have a moral obligation to address this. But we have to sort of cautiously support this because when we talk about the reluctance of people are unaware of asserting their rights or bringing these issues forward, I mean, Mr. Speaker, people do have to pay a bit of personal responsibility to these issues. Now if they feel because of some type of reprisal, well that's wrong and that we should make sure we deal with that in an open and fair way. But people do have a small responsibility to ensure that they bring forward these concerns. We have MLAs; everyone knows who their MLA is in communities. We have mayors, we have band councillors and chiefs and whatnot, so we need to work together to bring these issues to light if that's the problem.

Social housing, to change it roughly from 32 percent down to 18 percent, Mr. Speaker, I give my cautious support to that as well. I will say that people need to ensure that they're living in a standard that seems acceptable and reasonable. If all their money is going to social housing rent, then we have to address that through some type of means. If that means make fair and reasonable adjustments, I will agree to that. But let's not just broad brush that and say drop the rent. So we have to be cautious when we examine these things.

I've always believed in giving people a helping hand, not a handout, and this certainly speaks to the opportunity to re-examine this issue a lot closer to ensure we're doing that. I constantly keep in mind that we need to make sure our social housing is fair, safe and reasonable, Mr. Speaker. By not giving people an opportunity who are now good bread earners, who are bringing in a good income, to give them an opportunity to finally get on their own two feet, I think is wrong. I think we need to ensure that people getting on their own two feet are given a boost and a bit of a nudge for opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I think that I'm going to say that I support this motion with a small proviso that we proceed cautiously, but we have to be sensitive to the fact that if people are not living in safe and healthy homes, then we have to make sure we do something immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I support the concept of the motion. There are some parts in here that I do support. Bringing the rent down from 32 to 18 percent, I mean we'd have to have a look at that.

I've always been a firm belief in independence and I'd like to see many public housing tenants become as independent as possible. Some of the housing programs they've had out over the years have been some fairly good programs, and who these programs, in my mind, were designed for. I always take exception when they talk about maintenance of units. I mean it doesn't apply to all LHOs. There are some LHOs out there that do a good job with what they have. They are continually asked to work on older units with less and less money, and some of the onus has to be on the local housing authorities and the districts. If it's the Housing Corporation, the head office job to go and monitor everything that's going on, then that's what they should be doing. But some of the onus has to be on the local housing authorities as far as rent collections go, the maintenance of the unit. It doesn't apply to everyone across the NWT. But I do support the concept of the motion. I will be voting in favour of the motion. The numbers I am kind of concerned about, and I always want to make the point when we speak on housing, in every community we go to we hear about the poor condition of units. But how much of that is Housing Corp, how much is the local housing authority? That's something we have to decide.

As more and more new units hit the ground it's a lot easier to maintain the new units, so you don't have too much trouble with those. It's just the old ones, and I've seen units that were built in 1972, in their third or fourth round of renovation. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, you're starting to feel like you're getting closed in because you're just constantly building in. So go from a three bedroom to a two bedroom.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will support this motion and the numbers concern me, but overall I think it's a good motion and I think we are acting on concerns that we've heard in our travels across the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: I'll allow the mover of the motion to close off the debate. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank my honourable colleagues for their support in the motion. They have spoken their truth; they have spoken their wisdom in terms of their support and the questions they have on this motion. I appreciate that, that they would support the people in the Northwest Territories on this motion. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the government takes a serious, strong recommendation in terms of this motion to help the people in the small communities.

Mr. Speaker, in my studies and in working with people, I have learned about Abraham Maslow and Maslow's hierarchy of needs of a human being. Mr. Speaker, very simply, Maslow's hierarchy of needs said, "The basic human needs met are food, shelter, and a sense of belonging." That's all that people want, to a point where they get to self-actualization. If you have the three basic needs covered, according to this gentleman here, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, you have it covered. That's what this motion is talking to are these basic needs that we are providing for our people in the Northwest Territories.

So I thank the Members again for their support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Motions. Honourable for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion he gave notice of earlier today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with your motion, Mr. Lafferty.

Motion 14-15(5): Restoration Of Funding For Federal Programs, Carried

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi, colleagues.

WHEREAS the recent spending cuts by the federal government have directly impacted the Northwest Territories through the loss of approximately \$500,000 for literacy programs, \$279,000 from the First Nations and Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy and \$161,000 to volunteer programs;

AND WHEREAS the recent federal spending cuts to the Visitor GST Rebate Program, Court Challenges Program, Status of Women Canada, and Museum Assistance Program will also impact Northwest Territories businesses and organizations to an extent that has not yet been quantified;

AND WHEREAS the federal government made these spending cuts without any notice to or consultation with the Government of the Northwest Territories or the affected organizations;

AND WHEREAS in the absence of a resource revenue sharing agreement, the Government of the Northwest Territories, unlike provincial governments, has limited ability to replace the federal funding from its own revenues;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories convey to the federal government a strong objection to the recent cuts to the federal programs in the Northwest Territories, and press the federal government to reinstate these funds;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories convey to the federal government a strong

opposition to any further cuts to federal programs in the Northwest Territories in advance of a resource revenue sharing agreement.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion. The Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to talk about this motion that's put forward today, the importance of the Literacy Program, the federal cut that we just faced just a couple weeks back. When we toured the communities in the past, last year and this past year, literacy was a big issue as well in the community. We have a lot of people in the community that are non-educated. There might have been some people that went through residential school, but at the same time there are people that fell through the cracks. They're the ones that are lucky enough, like myself, that went off to high school and college. But at the same time, there are people out there in our communities that are facing challenges, literacy challenges. That's why we're here today talking about this motion that I have moved. The importance of reintroducing that to this House again, because I've spoke to it on numerous occasions, Mr. Speaker; the importance and the relevance of reinstating this program. Although we talked in the House here about talking with the federal government and how we can strategize with the three Premiers, it's a start for us, but at the same time I think this motion reiterates that as well, makes it stronger. We all face the community members, the elders, and so we'll hear from them even more when we visit the communities after this session.

When I spoke my language, I talked about the unity, working together. When I questioned the Premier earlier about having our own community governments and aboriginal governments getting involved in the process with resource revenue sharing, we talk about how we can proceed to get some action, results, from negotiations. To date, we haven't seen anything yet. That is why we are stressing to the government sitting in front of us that we need to be involved; the grassroots people we call them, our elders, our negotiators, our leaders from the communities.

With that, Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, there are people out there who cannot stand up here and talk for themselves. We are here elected representing them. They can certainly not read or write, at least 42 percent of them. It varies throughout the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to stress that, Mr. Speaker, the importance of this motion that is in front of us and how it has a huge impact on the NWT Literacy Council, volunteerism and different programs that were cut as well.

I would just like to point out that the NWT Literacy Council also represents the national literacy organizations such as the Movement for Canadian Literacy. Literacy, again, Mr. Speaker, is very important to us. I just want to elaborate on that. I hope this House will support it and move forward with it and Cabinet take it as a recommendation and move forward with it and how we can work together. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to stand here in this House today in support of this motion. I am happy to second this motion that is before us today on the restoration of funding for the federal cuts that recently took place here. Mr. Speaker, I am as disturbed as the next Member on these cuts and what they mean to the residents of the Northwest Territories. That's why I am very happy to be seconding the motion that is before us.

Cuts in literacy, volunteerism, the smoking cessation; these are programs that impact our residents tremendously. I have mentioned it before in this House, the other day when I was questioning the Premier on this. We are not a province. We are a territory. We have a very limited ability in replacing any of these funds that are cut. But, Mr. Speaker, we do have a \$1.1 billion budget. My message through this motion today is if the government can't go back to the federal government, our government go back to the federal government, and demand, until there is a resource revenue dealing in place, that they reinstate every single dollar that came out of program funding here in the Northwest Territories, then we are going to go back in the business plans and the budget, and we are going to find the dollars and we are going to replace those dollars. I think that, to me, is fundamental. We can find the money. We can come up with the money to support those programs. I know that and many Members on this side of the House know that. That might be the step, Mr. Speaker, that we need to take.

We have to send a strong and clear message to Ottawa. That hasn't been done. We stand by, we continue to just be treated as second-class citizens in this country, Mr. Speaker. It's not acceptable. We have to put our foot down.

To the groups out there who lost this funding, and I will mention this right now, we have the capacity to replace it. If the federal government is not going to do it, then I would suggest we start looking at ways and means as a government to come up with the dollars to carry out these programs that are essential to our residents here in the Northwest Territories and we start putting our money where our mouth is. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to speak and vote in favour of this motion and an opportunity for me to add my voice in letting the federal government know how devastating and offensive these cuts are to the North, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when the new Conservative government came into power, I was told by someone who remembered the previous Conservative government days awhile back that there would be cuts in programs and services. With this being a minority government, Mr. Speaker, I really didn't expect the cuts to come so swiftly and so severely. I could not have imagined that the cuts would be aimed at such programs and services that are of such value to so many citizens, especially in the North, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what hurts more, I think, is that this is not a case where the cuts came up as a fiscal restraint measure where the government is running out of money, we all have to tighten the belt, can we look around? Can we do more with less? It was not at all like any of that sort of measure. I know the cuts hurt all the time, but if it was that

sort of exercise, I think there might be some support and more support.

Mr. Speaker, what we have here in Canada is a real ideological war, in my opinion. This is really about principles. I remember somebody saying when the previous government was going through a hard time, there were a lot of people saying I would like to have a leader who is very clear about what he stands for and I like a government with principles. I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, in a way I am glad that the Conservative government has made it very clear exactly what their principles are, because I believe this is giving us an opportunity to really rethink, as a Canadian and as residents of NWT, about exactly what our principles are, exactly what our values are, in terms of what we would like the government to do. What other levels of services, what are the priorities? Mr. Speaker, for many years, we have taken lots of programs and services for granted. I think when the people have a chance to rethink that, when the opportunity arises, people are going to exercise or put that letter X into the appropriate place and put this government back to the old reform and alliance closets that this new government came from.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Canadian principle is that we value literacy, especially in the North. This is a dire issue. The NWT Literacy Council had an exemplary record in providing very valuable programs and services all over the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. I have seen and participated in gatherings of community literacy workers from all over the North where these workers got together in the Northern United Place just last fall and they were talking about the programs that they are working on in our communities and how they are making a difference in that regard. They had projects pasted around the walls and these are programs where people have gone about taking care of business and looking after our people's interests.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you my principles stand in support of the literacy workers. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Prime Minister of Canada knows that BHP has the largest program in literacy in the North because the government has failed to provide necessary literacy training. BHP, as an employer, has realized that in order to hire our northern aboriginal people, they needed to help them with literacy programs. Mr. Harper should realize there is more to resource development than just extracting resources. The more important part of resource development is that we have to work on the human resources, and that includes enabling our human resources to take opportunity of employment situations that come out of resource development projects. Cutting these kinds of literacy programs and other programs that he has done is working backwards, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard the proponents of these literacy cuts and geo cuts saying in the national media and territorial media that most of this money goes to staff, the office, and there is an argument made by the Conservative-thinking people that the less social programs there are, the better off. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, for those who speak like that, I wonder who do they think should deliver these programs if not the people sitting in offices? Who does it take to organize all these community people to develop programs? Certainly it's not going to be robots. I find that really offensive, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to tell you that if the Conservative government wants the government to stay small, that would be more reason to support these NGO programs in offices. I am telling you, these people work at low wages, practically

volunteering, and it would cost the government a lot more money to deliver programs on literacy, on smoking cessation, youth employment, adult literacy, anything you can think of, women's programs. NGOs are a better return on money than the government. This is even going against its principles.

This takes me to the next section about volunteer money. Mr. Speaker, I could only assume that Conservatives don't see the value in the volunteer sector. Mr. Speaker, my city of Yellowknife tops the charts year after year in a vast array of interested volunteerism. Volunteer NWT has made huge progress over the last two years in just a short two years to foster and expand this initiative throughout the NWT, so that benefits to be gained by volunteering and volunteerism would spread all over the North. I don't agree with the Conservative principle that this is not a cause worth government spending.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on and on stating my differences with the Conservative principles, but I don't agree with the principle that the government should not use its surplus cash to fund smoking cessation programs, youth employment programs, women and volunteer programs, as well as the group seeking to protect equality rights through the Court Challenges Program, Law Reform Commission. The list goes on and on and on. Of course, we are in this House mostly concerned right now about cuts to literacy funding.

Mr. Speaker, when these cuts were announced without warning, I have to tell you this was not unplanned or arbitrary. These cuts were designed to show exactly where the Conservative government stands. Mr. Speaker, this Conservative government stands exactly to the right of even the most right wing Republican government in the U.S. As the Liberal MP from Nova Scotia said, this government is so right, it's wrong.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of principle that really works for those who have sufficient personal and financial resources to live life without ever getting help from publicly funded programs. People like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet in the States who got tax cuts from the Bush government even though they said they didn't want it. On the smaller scale, Conservative principles work for people like me. I would like to say that I am quite self-sufficient. I could probably live the rest of my life without getting a lot of help from publicly funded programs. It's a principle that believes the less government, the better and any effort to redistribute the wealth of our nation through government programs and services is seen as some kind of a waste of tax money and not a good distribution of public resources. You know what, Mr. Speaker? That's a principle I don't agree with and I don't think that's a principle that works for our situation in the North because, if left unchecked, I believe this principle will have an even more devastating effect in the North. In the North, we don't have economic and social sufficiency or even political sufficiency at the moment without devolution and resource revenue sharing. We are not a self-sustaining economy or a self-sustaining polity at the moment and we don't have the social structure to go on our own. This is a place where a good positive role of the government is very crucial in the progress of our people.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a Conservative principle that will see more of our people being left behind. There will be a lot more cuts and I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, with this motion and this point forward we have to keep telling

the federal government that this is not the way to go. Even in the most booming economy and where there is such a surplus in federal funds, they should be doing more to accommodate and facilitate progress of our people rather than doing everything they can to leave all the people who don't have it behind and just take care of the people who can already take care of themselves.

Mr. Speaker, obviously I cannot speak strongly enough about how opposed I am to these cuts. I am sending out the warning that this might even just be the beginning of a lot more to come. If we don't take a big stand, we could see out of control spending on defence, out of control deficit going up because there will be tax increases to see the tax money or good distribution of resources to spend on their priorities. We are going to continue to see a government that chooses to go after made-in-Canada solutions for global problems like global warming. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is just the start of a big conservation we are going to have and we have to tell the federal government that enough is enough and they are not going to get one step further than where they are now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lee. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I just want to rise in support of the motion for the fact of all the arguments you have heard already here. I will just make mine brief. With these cuts in the literacy section of the federal cuts, Mr. Speaker, where the rates of illiteracy right across Canada are highest amongst the aboriginal population, I don't know if the federal government really realizes this, but that's the sector of the human resource population in Canada that has the most potential to assist this government or the federal government in dealing with the big labour market shortages that we are experiencing right now today. The potential to turn that whole human resource sector around has also been taken a step backwards just with some literacy cuts in that area.

Human development and well-being is not only measured in gross domestic product, which is just rising every day here in the NWT. We can still go out to the communities and see high unemployment rates, high suicide rates, high crime rates, sexual abuse rates and family abuse rates. You can't just measure it by gross domestic product only. The human development indicator is one of the best indicators used at the international level is literacy. That's one of the most important indicators of human well-being in any country. That's a basic measurement of how well a country is dealing with either an economic resource boom or a resource bust. Literacy is one of the prime indicators in that measurement.

With the cuts in the literacy funding at the national level, again we are taking a step backward. Why do we have to rely on BHP to provide literacy funding and education to the people who it wants to retain, that being the aboriginal population which has much pride and admiration for themselves and they are kind of reluctant to say they don't know how to read and write. That's why the onus is on our government to provide some kind of an interim funding to cover off the shortfalls that all these NGOs are going to experience because of the federal government cuts in the area of literacy, volunteerism and smoking cessation, because of the fact that we will definitely benefit from it. We have a lot to lose and everything to gain if we just cover off on the interim measures, these funding cuts,

whether it be from other programs that aren't high priority. I think it has the utmost priority of this government to keep the ball rolling in literacy, development and human well-being in the NWT, that being literacy funding, funding of volunteerism and such.

If we don't do that and don't come up with some interim options of how we are going to address this issue, we are going five years back in less than a year and everything is going to go down the tube along with the federal government cuts, and we're going to be starting from scratch again. I just don't want to see the snowball stop rolling. I think it's building all the time and we have to keep building on it. With just providing some interim measures, interim funding arrangements, we can keep that ball going just as long as it takes to get some federal government attention back to this issue of literacy funding and volunteerism across Canada. I think that's of utmost importance just with this government here today. You know, we can deal with the federal government when the time comes, but just as an interim option I think it's very important that we keep that momentum going with industry, government and NGOs and provide them with the funding that they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. To the motion. I'll allow the mover of the motion to wrap up. Mr. Yakeleya, to the motion.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. A quick, short support for this motion, and it just really puts into question in terms of the attitude of the federal government in terms of cutting wasteful spending all across Canada and not speaking to our leaders in terms of the potential impacts that it will have in the Northwest Territories. One of my colleagues has said that we are not a province, so it's very unfair the way we're being treated, but it's nothing new, by the federal government parties. So I would speaking in favour of the motion and Mr. Lafferty will have my full support. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think I've stated my position on this motion a couple times, and more recently this afternoon during my Member's statement. I am in full support of this motion. When I talked to somebody from Volunteer NWT and they say that they're worried about their \$161,000 cut, that concerns me. We ask people in the Northwest Territories to do a job and we seem to make it more and more difficult for them, and these cuts from federal government are not helping. So I am in full support of this motion, and if they don't want to restore our funding, then I think everybody in the Northwest Territories should look at using this letter X that I was speaking about...

---Laughter

...and maybe put somebody else in there that will. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I stand in vigorous support of this motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, vigorous. Vigorous.

MR. BRADEN: Three-quarters of a million dollars a day is what's going out of here in taxes and royalties from the diamonds and the oil and gas that we need a share of. We're not getting it. Ottawa takes it away arbitrarily in programs that really make a difference to people in our communities and on our front line without talking to us, Mr. Speaker, and that's the part that really, really goes against the grain here, especially in this consensus system. We're ready to take some bad news and take our share of working for a better Canada, but this is not the way to go about it.

Mr. Speaker, there is a number of cuts that we're going to take here. Members have spoken about it today; I've spoken about it in some previous ones. A particularly difficult one that we are going to see considerable ripple from is the loss of the tourism, the GST advantage the tourism packages have now. We will be increasing the non-competitiveness of Canada's tourism product by 6 percent as of April 1st if this one goes through. Mr. Speaker, Ottawa recorded a \$6.7 billion surplus so far this year, and yet they're taking away \$1 billion worth of very valuable front-line programming, \$1 million of it here in the Northwest Territories. I will not stand for a download, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: We won't.

AN HON. MEMBER: No way!

MR. BRADEN: I will not accept that this government, this territorial government, which is not even getting a share of the resources from our own ground, has to come in and take up the slack that the federal government arbitrarily takes out from underneath us. That is not responsible. I will not take that position; not for a moment.

The message in the motion is for our government to press hard...

AN HON. MEMBER: Press hard.

MR. BRADEN: ...with Ottawa...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hard!

MR. BRADEN: ...for restoration of these cuts, and not to put anything else before us until we've got a deal in place for our resources,...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. BRADEN: ...an agreement-in-principle that we need before the next federal budget, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. I'll allow Mr. Lafferty to wrap up the motion and debate. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members for their full support of this motion that I brought forward today. I think there is a strong desire for a proactive approach by this government, by the Members around this table, on these federal cuts. It's time that this government made this a priority. We always talk about it's the federal government's responsibility. It's not. It's our responsibility in the Northwest Territories. We stand here talking on behalf of 43,000 people living in the Northwest Territories. We're the voice for those people. Let's put an action in place where we can work with the communities so the program continues, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, it's time that we stop allowing southerners to fly over us, taking over the northern jobs. Let's invest in these individuals that fall through the cracks, as I've indicated earlier, and let's invest in them for them to achieve their dreams. At the same time, those dreams, our dreams, will be fulfilled as well.

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity here today to change that, working side by side with Cabinet and the Members at this table here. Let's support in investing the NWT Legislative Council and other NGOs that my colleagues have outlined, so we can see positive results sooner than later, Mr. Speaker. Simply put, let's invest in our communities where it's really needed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Motions. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 13, with Mr. Ramsay in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, committee. I'd like to ask, what is the wish of committee? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Motion to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. I'll now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole please, Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, committee would like to report progress, and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 15: Elections And Plebiscites Act

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 15, Elections and Plebiscites Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 15 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 3

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 17 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Wednesday, November 1st, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 9, Censure of Premier and Support for Victims of Sexual Abuse
 - Motion 10, Transfer of Responsibility for Social Housing
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9, Write-off of Assets Act, 2006-2007
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2006-2007
 - Committee Report 6-15(5), Report on Pre-Budget Consultations - 2006

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 1, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:22.

