



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

6th Session

Day 1

15th Assembly

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Tuesday, March 13, 2007

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, March 13, 2007****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): Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Anthony W. J. Whitford, is prepared to enter the Chamber to open the Sixth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly.

ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Tony Whitford): Monsieur, le president, monsieur le premier ministre, messieurs et Mesdames les deputes, mesdames et messieurs, et amis. It hardly seems a moment has passed since I last was with you.

---Laughter

But it is good to be back. On Sunday, I returned from a visit to Whitehorse where I was supporting athletes, coaches, artists and parents from Team NWT at the Canada Winter Games. I am pleased to report a great deal of success was attained by our team. From a hard fought, well-deserved gold medal won by Hay River skier Brendan Green...

---Applause

...to personal bests set by many athletes, Team NWT gave stellar performances, upheld the honour of our territory and made us proud.

I particularly want to mention the athletes taking part in the Inuit and Dene games. For the first time, these games were a demonstration sport at the Canada Winter Games. The eyes of the nation were turned upon us as northern athletes competed for medals in a variety of challenging and unique games. Team NWT male and female athletes enjoyed much success and I feel I have to mention a cluster of family athletes who did especially well. I am speaking, of course, of the McLeod ladies, Robyn, Shawna and Devin.

---Applause

Between them they won five medals; gold, silver and bronze, and in the all around female competition Robyn won a silver medal, Shawna came fourth and Devin tied for fifth place. I have no doubt they were inspired by another family member, our own Minister for sport and for youth, the Honourable Michael McLeod,...

---Applause

...father and uncle to the ladies.

As well as sports, the Canada Winter Games offered the NWT an opportunity to showcase art and culture.

Through displays and performances, the work of our northern artists was showcased to Canada during the opening and closing ceremonies and throughout the games.

While in Whitehorse, I had the opportunity to tour an art collection called Burning Cold. This collection contains pieces created by several artists from all across Canada and will go on tour to many different cities now the games are over.

One of the art pieces, and the best in my mind although I admit to some bias, was an exquisite, detailed carving created by Fort Simpson artist John Sabourin.

---Applause

John's Dene cultural identity merged northern customs and modern visions resulting in an abstract work highlighting texture and form and bringing the stone to life through stories and legends.

I must also thank Premier Handley for the invitation to his house party at NWT House. I, and many other guests from all corners of Canada, enjoyed a rousing evening of northern music and camaraderie culminating in a very informative and entertaining quiz, entitled "Beat the Premier" where Premier Handley took on all comers answering any question the audience cared to pose about the Northwest Territories. I am happy to report our Premier gave a good account of himself and passed on much colourful, northern knowledge to the audience. I have no doubt we will welcome more visitors to the NWT as a result of his answers, especially to Tsiigehtchic and learning how to spell the word. Thank you, Mr. Premier, for your hospitality. And thank you athletes and all participants for a memorable two weeks.

In the coming months, I look forward to a busy spring and summer as I continue my quest to visit every community in the Northwest Territories. As well, I have enjoyed visiting local schools and meeting with you to hear their perspective on a wide variety of issues. I never fail to be impressed by their intelligence, candor and enthusiasm. I hope to meet many more of our young citizens over the next few months at their graduations and assemblies.

During this session, the Government of the Northwest Territories will be introducing the following bill entitled, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2007-2008, for consideration by the House. The government considers this bill essential to the good conduct of government business and, as such, I recommend its passage.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I now declare open the Sixth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, merci, merci beaucoup, mahsi cho.

---Applause

Speaker's Opening Comments

MR. SPEAKER: Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber to begin our Sixth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly. Certainly it does seem like we never left. I know you are all eager to get back to the business at hand, so I will make my comments brief.

I wish to extend thanks, on behalf of all Members, to the Honourable Anthony Whitford, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, for opening the Sixth Session of this 15th Assembly.

As we continue our work here, I look forward to a productive and fruitful session. I wish you wisdom and strength in your continued deliberations on behalf of all the residents of the Northwest Territories.

Finally, colleagues, I would like to remind you once again of the important role you have assumed: to uphold the integrity and the dignity of this institution in both word and deed.

On a happy note, before we begin the orders of the day, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a very special day for one of our Members, the honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Norman Yakeleya. It's his birthday today.

---Applause

Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Menicoche.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 1-15(6): New Department Of Transportation Website

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to draw attention today to a recent, positive development within the Department of Transportation that is already benefiting many NWT residents and visitors alike.

I am referring to the new department website which provides online access to a wider range of useful and important information on travel within the NWT, as well as services and programs offered by the department. Department staff devoted many hours to design and develop a user-friendly website that would be easy to navigate through features and content that inform and assist users.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the site now provides detailed reports on road and ferry conditions across our public highway system. Previously, that information was only available from the department's toll-free highway and ferry information line. There is also a link to weather information across the territory. With that kind of information now only a mouse click away 24 hours a day, travelers can make more informed decisions when planning a trip. It's all about safety.

There is better information too for air travelers and those with an interest in aviation. In addition to timely bulletins and travel tips, and external links to aviation-related organizations, the site is connected to the flight information display system at Yellowknife Airport. Now,

from the comfort of your home or office, you can check flight arrival and departure times in Yellowknife, the same as if you were in the airport looking at the screens.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Ohh!

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, the new site also provides a wealth of information for drivers like you and me and for commercial carriers. It tells you what you need and where to get a new driver's licence and what it will cost. You can also download a driver's manual to study before writing a test. Being able to access those types of documents over the Internet will certainly be appreciated in some of the smaller communities where getting a hard copy of a manual wasn't as easy as it was in other communities.

Manuals for prospective commercial truckers and downloadable forms truckers and their companies need to do business with the department are also available on the site.

Another significant new feature on the site is an e-mail subscription service. When you sign up for the service, you can customize your choice of website sections that interest you the most. When new information or new documents are posted to those sections, you automatically receive an e-mail that tells you about it. Depending on how important that information is to you, you can also choose how frequently you get those updates.

I believe it's worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that the site also has biographical information on the Minister of Transportation and how to reach him...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Ohhh!

---Laughter

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: ...or department staff with compliments about the new website. Surely, the site wouldn't be complete without that.

I could go on, Mr. Speaker, and point to many more new and improved features of this website, however I believe I have given Members a sufficient overview of this new site and how it will benefit those who visit it, as well as my department.

I also want to acknowledge the role of the federal Department of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities in making this site possible. Funding my department obtained through the intelligent transportation systems component of the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program was used to cover part of the cost of developing the site.

I invite Members of this House and the media to join me and department staff in the media room at the break today for a demonstration about what this new website has to offer. I would also encourage the public to visit the website if they haven't done so yet. New features and content are continually being added. The address is www.dot.gov.nt.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 2-15(6): Working Towards Post-Secondary Excellence

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Support for and improvement of post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories is an important part of the foundation for some of the GNWT's key priorities. For example, our priority that northerners have the skills to take advantage of economic opportunities requires more education for residents. Our priority that the GNWT help people to help themselves clearly relies on improving levels of education.

"Building on our Success," the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's strategic plan, sets out our objectives, priorities and actions in the area of adult and post-secondary education from 2005 to 2015.

One important activity of Education, Culture and Employment is to regularly monitor major accomplishments and trends so we can improve program effectiveness. Later today, I will table Towards Excellence '05 - A Report on Post-Secondary Education in the NWT. This publication provides a profile of post-secondary education from 2001 to 2005. By reporting publicly on results in post-secondary education, this document provides key indicators of where our system is working and where it may need to be improved.

Highlights outlined in Towards Excellence include increases in the number of aboriginal students attending post-secondary institutions. Aboriginal students are also increasing their educational attainment overall. Population surveys of NWT residents show aboriginal representation has increased middle management, health, education, social sciences, sales and service and in skilled trades. As well, enrollments at Aurora College have increased in recent years, indicating that northerners are choosing to further their education and training.

Mr. Speaker, while the results found in this publication show promising developments and improvement in post-secondary education levels, the northern labour market is booming and we still have not caught up to the overall educational attainment levels of Canada. For northerners to succeed, we need a strong system of post-secondary education and training to ready them for the work that is becoming available. Monitoring and reporting on the indicators set out in Towards Excellence are part of what we need to do to see continued improvement of our college and apprenticeship programs.

Mr. Speaker, the North has a very promising future. Our government has made significant investments in our education system. We all look forward to seeing a return on those investments in the form of increased education and skills leading to more employment and improvement in the quality of life of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 3-15(6): 2007 Canada Winter Games

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to provide an update on the Northwest Territories participation in the 2007 Canada Winter Games which ended in Whitehorse on March 10th.

As Members are aware, these are the first Canada Games held north of 60 and the first to feature a cooperative partnership between the territories to support this national celebration of sport, youth and culture.

I can report, without hesitation, that our pan-north approach to the games was a huge success and we have demonstrated to the rest of Canada that the North is a vibrant and dynamic part of the country. Team NWT sent over 250 athletes, coaches, youth ambassadors, traditional game athletes and mission staff from 27 communities, making the 2007 team our largest contingent ever.

During the two weeks of the games, our athletes tested their strengths against the best the country has to offer. Some, like Brendan Green of Hay River, triumphed and came away with a gold medal in cross-country skiing.

---Applause

Others, like our women's hockey team, thrilled the North in their games against Yukon and Prince Edward Island.

And still others went home knowing that although victory eluded them, they had given it their all and that they could feel proud of their accomplishments.

Our Dene and Inuit games athletes also thrilled spectators from across Canada and the North with their strength and agility in competing against their northern neighbours in the traditional games that are such an important part of our heritage.

Our youth ambassadors were fabulous representatives of the Northwest Territories. They volunteered with the host society in a wide range of activities and each and every area demonstrated that the youth from across the North have great strength, great character and will be strong leaders in the future.

Mr. Speaker, as Members may recall, our participation in the Canada Games program began nearly a year ago, on April 10, 2006, when representatives from the three territories lit their individual torches to begin the Canada Games Torch Relay at the Canadian forces base Alert, Nunavut.

From that date to February 15, 2007, when the Northwest Territories torch was featured at the opening of the NWT Games in Fort Simpson, the torch relay passed through every single community in the Northwest Territories on its way to Whitehorse.

Mr. Speaker, our participation in the Canada games also featured some of the best Northwest Territories artists and performers available. I would like to congratulate my colleagues, the Ministers of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Education, Culture and Employment, for their support of this program.

The unprecedented television coverage of the games meant that many of these individuals received national

exposure and played to audiences across Canada. I was particularly impressed by the Paulatuk drummers who rose at 2:30 in the morning on March 6th to play live on CTV's Canada AM.

---Applause

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to note the success of the NWT House. This was a suggestion made by the Members of the Legislative Assembly during our fall 2006 briefings on the games.

The NWT House was a drop-in centre, entertainment venue, tourism and business information outlet and all-around great place to be during the games. It was a great success and one that will, I am sure, will be talked about by visitors and residents for a long time to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my thanks to the volunteers and the staff who made these games a good success. You have demonstrated to Canada that the North is a great place to live and a great place to work. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ministers' statements. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the visitors gallery. Joining us here today are Members from the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. Please join me in welcoming Gary Schellenberger, Member of Parliament for Perth-Wellington, Ontario...

---Applause

...Diane Bourgeois, Member of Parliament for Terrebonne-Blaineville, Quebec...

---Applause

...Larry Bagnell, Member of Parliament for the Yukon...

---Applause

...Dennis Bevington, Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic...

---Applause

...Jacques Lahaie, Clerk of Committees...

---Applause

...and please welcome the staff of the standing committee, Kate Bourke, Marion Menard, Matthiew Carnaghan, Helene Couture-MacTavish, Rene Plante, Cecilia Shea, Micheline Egan, and Christine Detoni.

---Applause

Welcome to the opening of the Sixth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly. I hope you are enjoying the proceedings. Also in the visitors gallery, we have a teacher from St. Pat's High School. Coleen McDonald is a teacher of the Social Studies program at that school. With her are two students, Barbara Drybones and Colin Robinson. These students are very interested in the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Welcome to the gallery. Orders of the day. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the revised numbers on the cost of the Mackenzie gas project have recently been announced. The projected grand total amounts to \$16.2 billion and the proposed start of product movement has been pushed back to 2014. I want to list the published bottom lines for some of the players for the fourth quarter for 2006. Now, remember, this is just for the fourth quarter of 2006: Imperial Oil, total earnings, \$749 million; Exxon Mobil Corporation, total earnings, \$10.250 billion; Shell Canada, total earnings, \$223 million; ConocoPhillips, total earnings just for the fourth quarter, \$3.197 billion.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard off and on that this project is economically marginal. We are just one of many projects that, worldwide, any of these companies could be pursuing at this time. We have also occasionally heard of the notion that these proponents may seek financial subsidy or incentive from the federal government to jumpstart this project. So let's just paint a picture of where we fit into this program.

Without devolution or resource revenue sharing with Ottawa, the Government of Canada is going to be the big winners when it comes to royalty revenues. Right now, Ottawa has control of our resources. They appoint all members to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board. They are the stewards, guardians and trustees of our northern resources and our future. They have already clearly said that they support the Mackenzie gas project. The Prime Minister, on his visit to Yellowknife, said, and I quote, "We are committed to renewing and strengthening territorial formula financing and equalization. A New Deal on resource revenue sharing is inseparable from those negotiations. It won't happen unless the North builds an open competitive market economy where the resource industry can flourish. It won't happen unless you make sure projects like the Mackenzie gas pipeline come to fruition because, without them, no amount of transfer payments will give the North the future that they deserve."

Mr. Speaker, when Alaskans wanted to beat us to the punch in building their pipeline, we strongly protested about the fairness of any kind of subsidy or floor price that would propel their project to the front of the line. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask, what is missing in this picture when it comes to the interests of northerners? Later today, I will have questions for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment as to our government's position on federal taxpayers' money being used to sweeten the terms for multi-national, multi-billion dollar corporations that need help from our government...

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, please.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. ...our government providing money that will be used to sweeten the terms for multi-national, multi-billion dollar corporations that need help to extract northern non-renewable resources and all this while we have no resource revenue sharing deals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Access To Breast Health Screening Programs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, often in this House we speak about unequal access and availability of health care services between the large centres like Yellowknife and the small communities, and the unfairness associated with that. I want to make that exact point with respect to the breast health programs in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, much to the credit of the excellent and committed actions on fundraising and awareness campaigns taken by the NWT Breast Cancer Action Group and the incremental steps taken by this government, we now have excellent on-demand breast screening programs for women in Yellowknife, Detah and Ndilo at the Stanton Territorial Hospital. Women in these areas no longer need to get a referral from a doctor to go and get a regular mammogram at Stanton. Once a woman voluntarily enrolls into this program, there is a regular follow-up and monitoring for all women. There is also what is called a Patient Navigator Program for those who are diagnosed with breast cancer to help them through the treatment and all the ups and downs the patients and their families have to go through.

Mr. Speaker, we are all very aware that early detection and treatment is critical to any cancer treatment, and breast cancer is no exception. In fact, all women over the age of 30 are encouraged to get a regular mammogram and all women over 40 are strongly encouraged to do so.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this on-demand service is not accessible to women in areas outside of Yellowknife, Detah or Ndilo as easily. In fact, in Inuvik, the program that has been in place since 1999 is still a clinical program, which means that women still need to be referred by a doctor to get a mammogram. There is no separate funding for this either and the Inuvik Health Board has to eat that cost.

For women in Hay River, Fort Resolution and Fort Providence, they go through a service in Hay River, but they get it through Alberta programs. Mr. Speaker, the situation is much worse in communities where there are no mammogram services at all. They must rely on services in Yellowknife and Inuvik. They often go through diagnostic imaging, which is different from the breast health program, which means that they have no monitoring and follow-ups. I would like to ask the Minister.

There has been a proposal before the government since last June to make this program available for all of the NWT. I urge the government to approve that so that all women of the Northwest Territories have equal access to mammograms and other breast health services that they deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Impact Of New Deal Funding Formulas On Tax-Based Communities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to discuss the issue of the New Deal for communities and whether or not the New Deal is, in fact, a fair deal for the larger communities. My colleague for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen, has questioned the Minister extensively why the Town of Hay River has been negatively impacted by the water and sewer subsidy. Today I want to address the fact that the City of Yellowknife is also getting the short end of the stick when it comes to funding it receives from MACA. Across the board, the city will receive \$600,000 less based on changes that occurred in how the funding is distributed. Let me be clear in my message today that all communities, both big and small, should be treated fairly.

When developing a funding formula, the department should recognize that, by adjusting the base, they are negatively impacting tax-based communities. There has been a steady increase in base funding from 1 percent plus per capita in gas tax monies to 1.5 percent plus percent capita on MRIF dollars to now 2 percent plus per capita on capital. This just is not fair to everyone, Mr. Speaker. What the department should be striving for is consistency in funding allocations so that when dollars do become available, there is surety on the formula being used.

Mr. Speaker, having spent five years as a municipal councillor, I know first hand how difficult a task it is to raise revenues. I believe MACA is putting too much on the backs of tax-based communities to raise these revenues. If MACA continues to insist on raising base levels, it will have a very serious impact on the tax-based communities.

The New Deal has to be a fair deal, Mr. Speaker. The department just can't keep taking money away from communities that are counting on it. The higher the base, the more penalized the tax-based communities become. Consistency and fairness should not be too much to ask. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Opportunities Arising From Delay In Construction Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a gift; it is a tremendous gift that we have set before us, Mr. Speaker, and that is the decision of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline consortium to delay the start of the proposed gas pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, that is because we have at least two more years to work this project to get even greater advantage from it. Mr. Speaker, we have already invested amazing resources into aspects such as employment and literacy to enable our people to take the best advantage of the job opportunities that are going to come. We know that our infrastructure is lagging. We know we need to make more investment into the roads, schools, waters and the waste systems in our communities. We know that our social services need more development. The NGOs need more services and support so that they can be ready for the impacts this project is going to bring.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has given, in the past few weeks, tremendous attention to the environment. We have so much more that we can do to lessen the environmental impact of this mammoth project. The private sector can always use more time to arrange its investments and its infrastructure to take advantage of it. Mr. Speaker, now is the time to take advantage of the time to secure the \$500 million socio-economic impact fund to have that delivered before this project gets started. Why should we be waiting for the NEB and Imperial Oil to decide on money that the federal government has already committed to us? It makes no sense to hold off on this commitment. As well, Mr. Speaker, we should be looking at expanding its application to other communities that surely will be affected by this mammoth project. The big prizes, Mr. Speaker, the ones we know we deserve, resource revolution...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Revolution!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yeah!

MR. BRADEN: Yes, resource revolution and devolution are the ones that we must achieve. Despite the promises of the Prime Minister, despite the optimism of the Premier, it is going to take more time to iron these funding issues out between Ottawa, the provinces and the territories. Let's use that to our very best advantage.

Mr. Speaker, with new leadership here and in Ottawa over the next few months, we are going to have time to bring new plans to bear and get those deals in place for the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Construction Of The Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik All-Weather Highway

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will talk for a moment that the Minister of Transportation was going to announce the Tuk-Inuvik highway funding.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, with the escalating cost now to \$16.2 billion reported yesterday for the construction of the projected forecast start date by 2014 of the Mackenzie gas project, this government needs to look at alternatives to promote economic development in the Beaufort-Delta.

Mr. Speaker, the annual construction of the 200-kilometre ice road between Tuk and Inuvik is a blessing for the community of Tuktoyaktuk because it enables residents to

visit friends and grocery shop. We know it costs an average of \$400,000 a year to construct and maintain this ice road. This brings me to raise the construction of a 22-kilometre access road to source 177 and the all-weather road between Tuk and Inuvik.

I first heard of the Tuk-Inuvik highway in 1978 as a hamlet councillor in Tuk. Mr. Speaker, construction of the 22-kilometre access road to source 177 and the Tuk-Inuvik highway will bring economic and municipal benefits to local businesses and contractors for the community of Tuktoyaktuk and the eventual Inuvik businesses and contractors if the federal government can provide funds for the construction of the Tuk-Inuvik highway. I say this because it is a long-term municipal requirement of the Hamlet of Tuk by way of access to a new landfill site, potential water source and a year-round gravel source for the community and will provide employment for the people in the Beaufort-Delta.

Mr. Speaker, I know the construction of new highways is a federal responsibility, and I appreciate the efforts of our Premier and the Minister of Transportation for the Mackenzie Valley and the Inuvik-Tuk highway through the documents, Connecting Canada from Coast to Coast to Coast and Corridors of Canada, II. Acknowledgement of these documents by the federal and territorial governments is one thing, but in order for it to become a reality, the construction of the access road to source 177 and the Tuk-Inuvik highway, we need to access funds and hope they will be included and identified in the upcoming budget. If not, I may have to take my colleague's advice, the Honourable Mr. Robert McLeod, and invite the Minister of Transportation and request to purchase two picks, two shovels and one quad so we can start the highway. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, if not, I will have to take my colleague's advice, the Honourable Robert McLeod, and invite the Minister of Transportation and request to purchase two picks, two shovels and one quad so we can start the Tuk-Inuvik highway.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the Premier and Minister of Transportation must continue to vigorously lobby the federal government to access funds for the construction of a Tuk-Inuvik highway because it will bring prosperity and economic benefits to the residents of the Beaufort-Delta region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am concerned about the recent announcement of the \$16.2 billion that they said it was going to cost to build the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. I represent the riding in an

area that has a lot to gain from the construction of a pipeline and we have a lot to lose. It is starting to bother me, Mr. Speaker, as to money that these people are hoping Ottawa gives them. We ask for a little bit of money for some royalties and they are asking in the billions of dollars. Chances are that they are going to get it. They hold something like the pipeline to their advantage to try and get that money out of Ottawa. They stand to profit billions and billions of dollars, and yet they go and ask the government for some money like they really need it. We are the people that need the money, Mr. Speaker. We really do.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MCLEOD: I don't think they need any fiscal enhancement. I have been a strong supporter of this pipeline and I will continue to be, because there will be some economic benefit to the people that I represent and people of the Northwest Territories. But it is starting to bother me as to the amount of money that the proponents are asking for to build this pipeline.

I have been here for just over two years, Mr. Speaker, and I have come to admire my colleagues and the eloquent way that they put things. I say something stinks; they say it has an unpleasant odour to it.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, from what I have seen so far and all the talk that has been going on, this whole business with the pipeline and everything that goes on with it and the politics that goes on with it is really starting to have an unpleasant odour to it, Mr. Speaker. That unpleasant odour is not the natural gas. Thank you.

---Laughter

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On World Water Day

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I just want to draw some public attention to next week, March 22nd, being designated as the World Water Day by the United Nations General Assembly back in 1992. Mr. Speaker, the World Water Day is an international day of observance and action to draw attention to the plight of the more than one billion, or 20 percent, of the people worldwide who lack access to clean, safe drinking water, something many northerners cannot relate to due to the fact that we are surrounded by thousands of clear lakes and clear rivers.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to mention some simple but maybe even quite disturbing facts that we don't hear too much about here in the NWT with respect to water. Mr. Speaker, the lack of safe, clean drinking water is estimated to kill approximately 4,500 children per day. That is one every 14 seconds, Mr. Speaker. Ten kids will die even before I finish my Member's statement, and 120 before we all finish our Members' statements, Mr. Speaker. That is pretty disturbing to me. Mr. Speaker, the problem is not confined to any particular region of the planet. It is a worldwide issue. Although the task of

addressing such a huge issue may seem quite daunting to many who may want to get involved, the modest actions of many individuals can make an extraordinary difference. So I encourage everyone to mark your calendars and go out and show your support on March 22nd to the organizations and the NGOs that are working towards developing a unified approach to addressing the disappearance of our safe, clean drinking water that condemns billions of people to a perpetual struggle for survival every day. So on March 22nd I encourage everyone to go out and make your difference. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Maximizing Employment Opportunities From The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was reviewing the report commissioned by Alternatives North on the Mackenzie gas project. The report notes that most of the income and employment will accrue to individuals outside of the NWT. The MGP Socio-Economic Agreement and the employment benefits the NWT can derive from it need to be examined and work needs to be done to ensure maximum benefits stay here in the North. Section 2.1.1 states that up to 16 percent of direct employment opportunities during construction and up to 72 percent during operation, Mr. Speaker, should be filled by NWT residents. But, Mr. Speaker, let's point out the obvious. We're hard pressed these days to find a tradesperson to work in the comfort of your warm, cozy home, let alone on the pipeline. Now let's look at approximately 800 physical, demanding jobs in the middle of nowhere in the middle of winter for our constituents and residents. I'm sure they can hardly wait.

The fact is, about 60 to 65 percent of the employment demands will be for jobs that typically require some level of post-secondary education. In fact, section 2.4.1 of the MGP Socio-Economic Agreement states that the MGP will require prospective workers to obtain appropriate education, training skills and experience. Mr. Speaker, that's before being hired.

As recent as 2005, ECE commissioned a report that says that the majority of the current available labour supply has less than high school as their education level and recently little job experience. Indeed, as a clear example, Aurora College was forced to suspend its Nursing Program due to the lack of qualified northern candidates. There was a total of 343 high school graduates in 2005, Mr. Speaker, and I think there's chances that not all of those 343 high school graduates will want to work on this pipeline.

In June 2006 there were only 1,600 people in total looking for work. Again, how many of those would be suited for a life in the oil and gas industry; a life that can be hard, with labour and rotational work schedules in camp, Mr. Speaker? It's a tough life and it's tough at home. This isn't a lifestyle for everyone. Every industry in the NWT is suffering from the lack of skilled people for highly demanding jobs. This pipeline will put even more demands.

I'm concerned that we won't have the trained bodies to fill these oil and gas project positions, thereby losing out on the so-called...

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even with the delay, I'm concerned that we will not have the trained bodies with enough skills to get those types of beneficial jobs. I'm even concerned that residents of this territory won't be in management positions. Management positions are where residents have some ability to be part of the controlling destiny of this project.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Education Minister, at the appropriate time, what his plans are with the surmounting education problem and lack of training for people out there to be prepared for this, even though we now have more time to put back on the clock to get our people ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Renovations Required At The Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home

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

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to send my condolences and prayers to the family of Adele Wedawin of Behchoko, a well-respected 95-year-old, who passed on this past Sunday. Our prayers are with the family, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to focus at the same time on the elders' situation in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Tlicho Community Services Agency operates the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home in Behchoko. It is a residential facility that accommodates eight elders whose needs are classified as level two and level three care. This means that, although they are considered to be somewhat independent and mobile on walkers or wheelchairs, they are still very fragile and require 24-hour medical care.

Mr. Speaker, from a regional perspective, the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home is a facility that can accommodate elders from our five communities. Tlicho culture and traditions support that elders provide that ongoing sense of connectedness to our land and our language. Rather than having the elders removed from the Tlicho region, it is healthier for the elders, their families, and our communities to have the elders remain close to home.

Mr. Speaker, the facility was completed in 1986 and it's owned by NWT Housing Corporation, which is responsible for the maintenance of the building. There have been

issues of groundwater accumulation, removal in the crawlspaces, the presence of mould in some areas of the facility, condensation in the roof structure, damaged flooring and deterioration of plumbing lines, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the groundwater accumulation and the condensation in the roof structure has contributed to dampness and mould in the building. The presence of mould in some of the rooms of the facility poses a huge concern for the community of Behchoko, especially the elders. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Denendeh Indian Residential School Survivors Conference

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this morning I went to a conference down in Ndilo at the community gym and, Mr. Speaker, I was taken aback by the number of people that were there from right across the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I spoke at this conference and they were talking about the residential school action that the government has taken and, of course, the Northwest Territories government has supported it in terms of helping the survivors. But, Mr. Speaker, I was there in terms of a presenter and talking about our experience as survivors, and, Mr. Speaker, there were women there, there were men there, there were young people there, there were leaders there from our communities there, also from the Assembly of First Nations. They were sitting there talking amongst themselves as how and what they can do as people in the Northwest Territories in terms of helping our own people. There are people in our region who are looking for answers or looking for support and looking for ways to deal with the residential school issues. They know that the payment that this government is proceeding with won't be enough. It's not about the money, people have said; it's there because of a legal process. It's there on behalf of the government saying they're sorry for wrongs they've done to a nation of people that took away their children -- I was one of them, I was six years old -- and how the devastating effects being taken away from your parents, your home community, your language and your culture and the damage it has on you in terms of the ripple effects. These people are looking for help from this government here.

I certainly hope this government has some time to go down and meet with these people in Ndilo, sit with these people who are hurting, sit with the women who are hurting and wondering what's wrong with their children or grandchildren or even what's wrong with themselves, or with men who are there looking for help.

Mr. Speaker, this residential school issue, there's 213 elders 60 years and over in the Sahtu. These elders need help in terms of experience. We put them through the wringer on a number of processes. Let's get out there. Let's help them. Let's get our history straight. Let's have this history of the residential school once and for all something I can stand up and say it does not have an effect on our life anymore. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Economics Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to comment briefly today on the issue of resource development and, of course, the Mackenzie gas pipeline revised costs. Mr. Speaker, the land of the Northwest Territories and the resources in it and under it are our bank; the gold, the oil, the gas, the diamonds, the cobalt, the uranium, the lead, the zinc. Those are all resources that are in huge demand. The world population is six billion, slated to go to nine billion and beyond in the next 10 years or so. There is an insatiable and increasing demand for resources worldwide. We sit on that storehouse. The land is our bank.

Mr. Broiles, whose parent company Exxon reported \$39.5 billion profits last year, the most in any corporation in the history of the world, has indicated that the project, the Mackenzie gas project, is not in a position to report double digit returns on their investment, therefore making it questionable. UBS Securities has indicated that, in their estimation, you need \$7.75 per thousand cubic feet of gas to make this project viable to proceed without government support. The price of gas on Monday was \$6.90 cents a thousand cubic feet. So I would suggest, with all the room there is for slippage and movement and fudging, that there's probably plenty of room to move on the viability of this particular pipeline.

We should also keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that this project does not exist in isolation; that it's part of a larger global canvas of work that's being done and there are all sorts of guessing and supposition of what other pipeline motives and agendas are out there. One of the ones I've read about was that the figures have been inflated, because the pipeline is getting ready for some tough negotiations on fiscal certainty and arrangements with the federal government, that the pipeline is dead and they're just trying to come up with a face-saving way to walk away from \$600 billion. Or that in fact this project is going to be partnered up somehow with the Alaska pipeline, which is now estimated at costing 40 to 50 billion dollars, to have some kind of joint project that will allow both those fields to be accessed through the Mackenzie pipeline, one would assume over the top.

So, Mr. Speaker, very clearly there are forces at play and there's been significant shift in the ground. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a significant shift in the ground that we have been standing on and have stood on in the past which would seem to me would bring into question the need for us to take another look, as Imperial Oil has done with their revised costs, their \$2 billion asked for so the federal government that the letter of comfort that we gave was for a point in time where the circumstances have drifted dramatically, that are going to require us, as a Legislature, as the stewards of the land and the resources

for the people of the Northwest Territories, to take another look. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, in the coming months, that that process would have to take place and the one benefit we have with this time, Mr. Speaker, is that we hopefully will conclude a resource revenue sharing deal that will be in the very best interests of the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement On Tribute To Richard Lafferty, Sr.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to acknowledge a former... (inaudible)... Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to acknowledge a former resident of Fort Providence who now lives in Hay River. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to recognize Mr. Richard Lafferty, who is retiring this year.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lafferty spent 43 years of continuous service maintaining our NWT highways and it's not often that we, in this House, get a chance to acknowledge someone with that type of dedication and commitment and I'm glad to be able to do that today.

Mr. Speaker, in 1963, at the age of 18 years old, Mr. Lafferty started working for the federal government as a heavy equipment operator in Fort Providence. In 1975, Richard was promoted to the position of highway maintenance supervisor. In 1978, the position was transferred from the federal government to the territorial government, and after 43 years of government service with many job titles and changes in governments and departments, and many challenges and lots of progress and completions in highway projects in the transportation field, Richard has decided to retire from his position as the regional manager of the highways operations in the South Slave. I would like to share with you Richard's motto, and it goes like this: "Challenge keeps a man on his toes and life interesting." Certainly Richard has made these challenges very interesting and met them with great enthusiasm.

If someone can truly be recognized as a man that is content and dedicated with his chosen field of work, then Richard, in this position, is truly a role model for our people in the North and in our communities.

So I wanted to say to Richard, on behalf of the people in the Deh Cho and I'm sure all the Members of this House and the Government of the Northwest Territories, I commend you on your 43 years of service with the government. Mr. Speaker, I grew up next door to Richard and spent many nights listening to Richard and my brother John and Danny Bouvier learning how to play fiddle and guitar, and today Richard is well known for his accomplishments as a fiddler. Fiddling is something else that Richard has done for many years and I'd like to recognize him for that also. I'm sure he'll spend a lot of his time now playing fiddle, spending time with his grandkids, and enjoying retirement life.

Richard plans to retire this year in April, April 9th, 2007...

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Richard plans to retire on April 9th of this year and I wanted to wish Richard and his wife, Ruth, the best of luck in the future. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Members' statements. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a constituent and northern businessperson as well, Pat Thagard.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, in addition, I'd also like to recognize from the gallery with her Dayle Handy, who is the homelessness coordinator for the City of Yellowknife. Thank you. Welcome.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope you're enjoying your proceedings. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 1-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today I talked about the Mackenzie gas project, about the fact that from the information that's being put out in the media that this project is marginal, that in fact there's other sources of national gas. There's LNG from other countries that, in fact, the product that we would ship would be double per unit of some other sources of natural gas. Mr. Speaker, this is all very interesting, but when that is going to be used as the springboard and the basis for which these companies are now going to go to Ottawa to seek subsidies or incentives or inducements in order to keep the pipeline, I think it's important that this government have a position on that. We may not be able to entirely affect the end result, but I think our government should have a position on that, because fundamentally I have a problem with it and I think this government should as well, but I'll wait to hear what the Minister has to say about that and ask if there are other ways that the federal government could direct money that would be more beneficial to northerners than helping these large corporations. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 1-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important, and our government has always been clear about this, this is an expensive project. We recognize that. We have never advocated for subsidies for the producers, Mr. Speaker. We have talked about the proper role that we believe the federal government can play, principally in backstopping the APG in providing loan guarantees for the APG, shipping commitments which will reduce some of their risk and in effect reduce the cost of borrowing and the cost of the project. In addition, we all recognize that if this project were built in Alberta or B.C. it would be much cheaper. What's driving some of the costs is our infrastructure gap and the infrastructure deficit in the North. We think the federal government can play a role in some marine landings and building all-weather roads, airport improvements, which will reduce the cost of this project and make it more economic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 1-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can support financial support for initiatives that would see this project proceed; however, I have a problem with those benefits directly flowing to the producers group. I'd like to ask the Minister what kinds of discussions he's had with his counterparts in the federal government to convey this message. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 1-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, the Premier and the Minister of Transportation have both had, especially the Premier, a number of conversations. They've spent a lot of time, over the last number of years, lobbying the federal government for infrastructure contributions. I, as well, have dealt with the same Ministers and the Minister of DIAND to talk about the support to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group. We think that this project will bring immense benefits to the people of the North. One way to ensure that those benefits accrue to the North is to have northerners and aboriginal people of the North own the project. So the APG support is critical. It underpins this project, Mr. Speaker, on a number of fronts. We have lobbied actively the federal government to see benefits flow north and talked about how this project can be made more economic. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 1-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister if, in his communications with the

federal government, he is able to convey that the viability of this project hangs on those types of investments and how strident has our government been in delivering that message? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 1-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, we've been very clear. We've been very forthright with the federal government in our belief that in order to make this project economic, in order to have the Aboriginal Pipeline Group be full beneficiaries of the arrangement that they have, it was going to require federal support. We've always recognized that and I think we've done a good job of articulating that; lobbying the federal government for the support, Mr. Speaker. We had talked about where we think governments play a logical role and that is in those areas related to infrastructure, in backing the APG. Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, these mega projects around this country and others do benefit from things like enhanced depreciation schedules. So a depreciation schedule attached instead of to the length of the pipeline time of 30 years, appreciation that is worked out over 15 or 20 years, the length of the anchor fields. Something like that is very common in oil sands and offshore developments. That's another typical area the federal government could help a project without subsidizing. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 1-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you. I'd just like the Minister's commitment that our government, then, will categorically communicate to the federal government that we will not support any direct subsidy to the producers group that are moving this project; particularly in the fact that we are realizing not our share of the benefits, as far as I'm concerned, without the resource revenue sharing arrangements. So I'd like the Minister to just confirm that our government categorically disapproves of direct subsidies to these proponents to advance this project. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 1-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I take the Member's questions and I think we feel the same way about this project. We believe this project can stand on its own merits but it will require federal help. We will sit down, and I will sit down, and we'll talk as a Cabinet about this issue. We have been very clear with the federal Minister. On a number of occasions, I've met with both the Minister and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group; just recently with Fred Carmichael a couple of weeks ago. The Minister knows, the DIAND Minister knows that federal support is going to be required. However, Mr. Speaker, we'll talk as a Cabinet and put something together. Thank you.

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

Question 2-15(6): Access To Breast Health Screening Programs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Health with regard to the Member's statement that I made earlier. It speaks to the importance of having a breast health screening program for all women, you know, that is fairly equal to one another. We have now an excellent on-demand program for women in Yellowknife, Detah, Ndilo. Inuvik has room to grow, but they're trying to do it within their own funding and I think that needs special attention. In small communities we don't have anything at all so I'd like to ask the Minister...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MS. LEE: I understand that there is a proposal before the government to expand this program and I would like to know if the Minister will make a commitment to look at it and to find a way to advance that as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 2-15(6): Access To Breast Health Screening Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we, as the Member has pointed out, have worked on improving health care in the Northwest Territories and, as she quite rightly pointed out, the difficulty we have in expanding some of our care levels into the smaller communities and regions. I'll have to get more information from the department as to what was done with the report the Member made reference to. As for going out and getting more funding, as the Member is aware, we just recently passed the budget for the upcoming year and we'll do what we can within the existing resources that we have available to us. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 2-15(6): Access To Breast Health Screening Programs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand it was a specific funding proposal and we all know how big the budget for the Department of Health and Social Services is, so hopefully there is money in there. Mr. Speaker, my question, and I should also point out the fact that a lot of programming that's being done is Stanton gets money raised by private groups as well, and there are lots of women all over the Territories trying to do that. So it's a partnership between government and other NGO groups and action groups. There's one thing that I think the government should look at for small communities and that's a mobile mammography program for those communities where they cannot have mammography machines but those programs could still be accessible. Could the Minister make a commitment to undertake a review of that option? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 2-15(6): Access To Breast Health Screening Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we will. I will go back to the department to find out where we are in that program. I do believe there was work done in the past in trying to expand that level of service. We'll find out where that is at and work towards trying to continue on with that program. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 2-15(6): Access To Breast Health Screening Programs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to follow up on that, availability of mammography and mobile mammograms are just one aspect of breast health and a Breast Screening Program, but what the government really needs is an overall program in this area that would focus on early detection and prevention, which keeps the costs down and keeps women healthy. So could I get the Minister to report back to us on what the government is doing to develop a comprehensive program in that regard? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 2-15(6): Access To Breast Health Screening Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to come back with the information that the Member has requested and work with committee on the initiatives and how we can continue to improve on the level of service available to the women in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 2-15(6): Access To Breast Health Screening Programs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to put a time frame on this. Could the Minister indicate as to when would be earliest opportunity for him to present that to us? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 2-15(6): Access To Breast Health Screening Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we'll try to have something together before we sit down in the next session.

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

Question 3-15(6): Maximizing Employment Opportunities From The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I cited employment and training concerns that I have about our northerners that they will

be facing. I'm concerned about the lack of real benefits, as I see it, and Mr. Speaker, if I had my way I'd have the Mackenzie gas project SEA before this House for a vote to see if we approve, even if it's a symbolic vote. But, Mr. Speaker, that's not going to happen, but at least, hopefully, these questions will have answers. Now that we have time back on the construction clock, Mr. Speaker, what does the Department of Education, Culture and Employment have as a breakdown for all the kinds of positions that northerners will qualify for, including management positions? If they don't have this information, what are they doing about getting this information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 3-15(6): Maximizing Employment Opportunities From The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have the Aboriginal Skills Employment Program in the Northwest Territories that has \$13 million to put into training. This is an operation that is funded by the federal government, GNWT, industry and aboriginal governments. What we do there is work with the pipeline companies and the oil industries to make sure that people are offered training to get into the jobs that are going to be relevant. So we know that a lot of the jobs aren't going to be pipeline related in the future; the pipeline is always seen as something that would stimulate a broader field of endeavours. So we're trying to make sure that we have people who are trained for the ancillary jobs that you'll find when fields of gas are opened up. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 3-15(6): Maximizing Employment Opportunities From The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I was speaking to a contractor the other day and he was telling me that the shortage is so bad for trained individuals that they can't even hire the old, bad people that they got rid of not long before. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to hear what the Education Minister is doing to ensure northerners are ready to take advantage of these opportunities because, as cited by the situation, if 800 potential positions are going to be out there, I want to make sure northerners get a real shot at this and not the guys or women on the line shovelling holes for this pipeline. Will they get real management jobs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 3-15(6): Maximizing Employment Opportunities From The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of a person's success depends on their individual application to making sure that they're ready to take on a job. So we're making sure that the training is available. It takes people to step up to the plate and take advantage of that training in order for them to be able to take on some of the jobs that are coming up. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 3-15(6): Maximizing Employment Opportunities From The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. HAWKINS: May I remind the Minister that we only have a 50 percent graduation rate, as we discussed last week. So will the Minister update me with the progress of our training on this oil and gas industry with respect to how many graduates out there are taking advantage of this program, that are enrolled in this, and how many students will get specific training for both management and technical expertise? Can he answer that question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 3-15(6): Maximizing Employment Opportunities From The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From 2001 to 2006, approximately 1,900 people have participated in training related to oil and gas and pipeline activities...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

HON. CHARLES DENT: ...and those range from after construction jobs, in terms of the pipeline operators training course, right through to jobs working with seismic companies. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 3-15(6): Maximizing Employment Opportunities From The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I cited earlier, my concern about this lacking agreement. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to hear what the Minister of Education is doing to ensure that northerners are strategically placed in management positions to ensure northerners have a role in the development of this Mackenzie gas project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 3-15(6): Maximizing Employment Opportunities From The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the ASEP program is offering about \$13 million, almost half of which has been spent on training to this point; \$13 million will be spent by the end of 2008. ECE puts \$1.1 million a year into oil and gas training all across the Northwest Territories. That's through the college, through ASEP contributions and through regional training initiatives that are done in partnership with aboriginal governments and businesses. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 4-15(6): Fuel Storage Along Northern Waterways

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. In the previous session I was raising the concern about the high-risk storage of about 40 or 50 million litres of fuel in barges tethered and moored along, I think, the Hay River and shores of Great Slave Lake. The Minister indicated he would have his people take a look at that before the rise of this House. I'd just like to ask the Minister if he's able to give an update on the circumstances and the review that took place, if it has taken place? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 4-15(6): Fuel Storage Along Northern Waterways

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we did follow up on the suggestion made by the Member and we had committed that we would have some of our officials, along with the Transport Canada officials, go and do an inspection. They did do an inspection on February 23rd and looked at all the system, the storage facilities and emergency systems and sent us a report and we will be reporting back to the Members on that visit. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 4-15(6): Fuel Storage Along Northern Waterways

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Minister for that. Recognizing that this is a federal jurisdiction, we have an obligation to protect the best interests and the water systems, as well. Could the Minister indicate, just a quick summary, if he's had a chance to look at the findings, to indicate the status: Have they been able to offload the fuel; have they been able to make it through the winter without any spills; and those types of things? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 4-15(6): Fuel Storage Along Northern Waterways

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did have an opportunity, our officials had an opportunity to go in and look at the facilities, look at the spill response procedures, look at the equipment, look at the level of training, talk to the contractors, and, Mr. Speaker, we did have a visit from representatives from the company and they met with the Premier and some of the staff of ENR and had a good discussion around it. We are quite confident that the barges are going to be all emptied before the winter road to the mines are closed and we expect them to be all emptied before break-up for sure. We did have one incident. The Member asked if there was any spill occurrences, and there was one on Sunday at the NTCL yard near here. It was a small amount and it has been cleaned up. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 4-15(6): Fuel Storage Along Northern Waterways

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate, since he's had these discussions with NTCL executive, whether they would, hopefully, make other arrangements on land for temporary storage should this situation where they require storage occur again, and not create the circumstance where there's a high-risk situation putting the waterways of the Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie Basin at risk? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 4-15(6): Fuel Storage Along Northern Waterways

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The discussion was basically around the short-term arrangements for the barging. Mr. Speaker, we are compiling the report of our inspection along with the federal officials. There are a couple of areas that we'd like to see some improvements and we'd like to meet with the company at that time to discuss some of these suggestions that we want to bring forward and we will be talking to them about alternate arrangements for the long-term if this is going to be a practice that continues. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger. Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 5-15(6): Delay In Construction Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for Mr. Bell, the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Investment, related to the pipeline project. Mr. Speaker, depending on your point of view, the lag of two to potentially three years before even a decision is made on whether to go ahead with this project can be a big problem, or a potentially big opportunity. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister what is the government's assessment of this delay, at least in terms of the additional preparation time that it provides us for mitigating the impacts and taking advantage of the opportunities, Mr. Speaker?

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

Return To Question 5-15(6): Delay In Construction Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it depends on your perspective, but I certainly don't see this as a good thing. I don't see the delay as beneficial. Mr. Speaker, we have to keep in mind that much of the exploration, much of the seismic work that's going to happen in the central Mackenzie is in the hopes that gas can be found and be put into the pipeline. Much of the work that's slated for the Beaufort-Delta area, and

there are many, many people and businesses who have made a bet on this project and invested in the steel and in the capacity to be ready for this, and the more slippage, the more likelihood that we'll see bankruptcies and we'll see people not able to put their equipment to work, Mr. Speaker. So it's, in fact, quite frightening. I think that we need to do what we can to keep the regulatory process on track. I'm still optimistic that some of the time can be gained back in the end and that we won't be looking at first gas by 2014, but I see no other way to see this but as a disappointing announcement on the regulatory slippage and, you know, we're going to work to do what we can to see if there's some time that can be made back. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 5-15(6): Delay In Construction Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm a bit curious about what the Minister means by regulatory slippage. This is a decision by the pipeline consortium. They know that it's going to take them a bit longer to get the decision from the National Energy Board and the JRP, but they are also going to take the time they need to make that decision. Can the Minister clarify just what, in his assessment, in the government's assessment, is the cause for this delay? Is it regulatory or is it financial, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 5-15(6): Delay In Construction Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, as Imperial Oil outlines in its press release, it's both; it's both regulatory delays that have occurred over the last number of years; and we've seen them related principally to the JRP, Mr. Speaker, and also the need to sit down with the federal government and talk about some of this fiscal certainty, Mr. Speaker. There's no doubt in my mind that the five or six years when this project was envisioned, the regulatory process that was set up with the cooperation plan seemed like a good one, but it's evident now that, in my opinion, the federal government vastly underestimated the resources that would be required to put this project through the regulatory process. The interdepartmental coordination from federal departments is not there, Mr. Speaker; we need a major projects coordinating office. The capacity in some of these departments -- and there are about 8 or 10 of them involved -- is not adequate. Mr. Speaker, even prior to these projects, the Crown has obligations to consult with aboriginal people. I don't think they have the capacity or the money in the federal government to do that. So it's on this federal government to fix those problems and we expect them to work to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 5-15(6): Delay In Construction Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's answers and I think he's showing some leadership on this one. However, given that we do have at least a couple or three years from the schedules we

may all have been hoping for, we should not be wasting a minute, Mr. Speaker, in revising our own timetables and schedules for our preparations for this project. What action is the government planning to adjust its actions to this new timetable, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 5-15(6): Delay In Construction Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously the timetable is largely going to be dictated to us. We have to sit down and look at the costing information that's been presented. We know that the National Energy Board will be doing that. We want to ensure that we are talking apples to apples. I know some of the new figures are around better estimates related to anchor field development going forward. I believe there was almost a – a plug figure is the wrong term – but there were some very loose estimates given to that and we can now see that they are billions more than was initially expected. So we will sit down as the Cabinet, talk about this and talk about how we move forward to best support this project. However, I can tell you that we continue to lobby and advocate for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group and their interests. Obviously their costs have risen; it's going to be harder for them to borrow money. We have some concerns about their returns and we're going to be working hard to make sure that they still have a viable interest in this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 5-15(6): Delay In Construction Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: You know, Mr. Speaker, along with advocating for the interests of the APG and the other major investors in this, we should be advocating for our own interests as I talked about training, environment, small business and community development. Mr. Speaker, the people who really on the front line are going to be affected by this are the communities of the Mackenzie Valley, the Mackenzie Delta and other parts of the NWT. Is the government going to be engaging those community leaders and industry leaders at the earliest possible time to begin to look at mutual solutions and plans for what to do with this extra gift of time?

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

Further Return To Question 5-15(6): Delay In Construction Of The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I am amazed that the Member can see this as a gift. I am sure Fred Carmichael and Nellie Cournoyea would disagree. I think the people of the central Mackenzie would disagree, Mr. Speaker. Let's be honest; this could potentially be devastating and we need to work hard to get this project on track. There is a window for delivering Arctic gas, Mr. Speaker. Free LNG being sighted on the continent, we think this project is still economic. There is a need to move forward. There is a need to enlist the federal government's support, as I described in response to Member Groenewegen's questions, but, yes, we are already working to talk about what this will mean for us and how we can respond. We have had phone

conversations with some of the northern leaders already. We have had discussions in Cabinet. We will be working diligently, Mr. Speaker, but it is hard for me to find any way to see this as good news. I can't, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 6-15(6): Renovations Required At The Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my earlier statement, I have highlighted the presence of mould in the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home in Behchoko, which poses a concern on the infection, disease or other sicknesses among the seniors in that facility. Mr. Speaker, in consideration of the problems identified with the facility, the NWT Housing Corporation has commissioned a study by an outside consultant to explore the possible alternative solutions, including a comparative analysis on repair versus replacement. The NWT Housing Corporation has identified a number of areas in the seniors' home that would require repair or replacement. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation what is the department's immediate plan to deal with the ongoing problems with regular maintenance of the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home in Behchoko? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 6-15(6): Renovations Required At The Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing Corporation is also very concerned, as am I, with the condition of this facility. There were, I think, seven areas of deficiencies that we committed to working on in the meantime in the short term. I don't have an up-to-date report on exactly what has been accomplished to today, but we are concerned about it. We will deal with those deficiencies in the existing building and, at the same time, take a look at whether or not we want to put major money into this facility or whether we would be better off to build something new. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 6-15(6): Renovations Required At The Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would like to see those results of the study that was undertaken. I am very concerned about the facility itself. It is 21 years old, built in 1986. It is falling apart, Mr. Speaker, when you really have a tour of the facility.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to focus on one of the long-term plans of the NWT Housing Corporation. If the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home costs more to repair than to replace, will this government, or NWT Housing Corporation, commit to a new seniors' home in Behchoko to replace it? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 6-15(6): Renovations Required At The Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will commit to providing units for the seniors in Behchoko. Now, we need to look at the review that is being done. This is not something that we are going to ponder or cogitate on forever. We have to take some action here. We realize that we have done some short-term things on the existing facility, but if this one just cannot be repaired at a reasonable cost, then we have to look at a new building, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 6-15(6): Renovations Required At The Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I definitely would like to see a new building that serves five communities. That is including Edzo, Behchoko, Gameti, Whati, and Wekweeti. Our population is growing. We are losing a lot of elders in the region. I talked about one of the highly respected elders that passed on two days ago. It is happening today. We have to take those into consideration that we are losing elders in not just my region, but other regions. So, Mr. Speaker, when can we see this in the works, an action plan to have this addressed to replace the building in Behchoko, the seniors' home? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 6-15(6): Renovations Required At The Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't tell exactly when it will be, but I can assure the Member that we are aiming at no later than June to have a report done that will tell us whether we continue with repairs to the existing facility or we go to a new building.

Mr. Speaker, I have a real concern; I think the Housing Corporation does, as well, of why buildings can't last more than 20 years. This building is not that old. In the scheme of things, we should have buildings that last 40, 50 or 60 years before they start to rot and fall apart and so on. So there is something wrong with the way we have been building these buildings. That is a serious concern. I don't want to build another building that is just going to last 20 years. This has to be thought through carefully and is something that we get our money's worth and the elders have a good, safe place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 6-15(6): Renovations Required At The Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister recognizing that there is a need for a new building in the community, the seniors' home facility that can serve the five communities. I would like to ask the Minister, based on the study that has been done, how soon can the Minister and his department meet with the Tlicho Community Services Agency to devolve a plan to

move forward? We have been waiting for a long time now. I think now is the time to act on it. Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 6-15(6): Renovations Required At The Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will speak to the Housing Corporation about that. I am, as the Member knows, travelling with him in some of the Tlicho communities in early April. I expect to have more information by the time we get together at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 7-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, several days ago, I was in the Legislative Assembly here. I was in the foyer with Members of this House witnessing an historical signing of a document with the federal government and the Deline First Nation and, of course, our government here. I was sitting in that chair just dreaming, Mr. Speaker, in terms of wouldn't it be nice to have this government, people from Deline and the federal government, sit down and talk about the original birthplace of ice hockey in Canada?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. YAKELEYA: I want to ask the Premier in terms of his discussion recently with the Prime Minister, himself being an historian buff in terms of hockey, what can the Premier tell me and the good people of the Sahtu, Northwest Territories? Is the Premier working with the Prime Minister to recognize Deline as the birthplace of ice hockey in Canada?

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

Return To Question 7-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Prime Minister is a man who has a tremendous interest in the history of hockey. Whenever I have an opportunity, I do raise this issue with him. I have to say, quite honestly though, that the Prime Minister has never said to me let's work together on making this known across Canada. So what he is doing may appear in a book he is writing. I don't know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 7-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping the Prime Minister would tell the Premier let's have a friendly hockey game up in Bear Lake and just settle the score once and for all. Mr. Speaker, I would ask this government and the Premier, what is his government doing in terms of showing that we support that motion that was passed in 2006? I believe it was February 23rd. We

passed the motion recognizing Deline as the birthplace of ice hockey and getting CBC to get their facts straight in terms of broadcasting the program that was broadcast across Canada. What is the Premier doing to support this motion and to support the people in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 7-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, every opportunity I get to remind people at the appropriate time that the birthplace of hockey is in Deline in the Northwest Territories, I take advantage of that opportunity. Mr. Speaker, we had a very good meeting and a celebration in Deline last fall. I enjoyed it. The community enjoyed it. In fact, even though I lost at the hand games, it was a good event.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I want to challenge the Prime Minister to a hockey game. He probably is bigger than me and can skate better. That may not be a good bet. Mr. Speaker, when we were in Deline last year, we did make an offer to the community to give us a proposal of how we could advance this and we put it in their hands to bring something forward. We certainly look forward to receiving something, whether it is bringing professional hockey players to Deline or doing a training camp or whatever it may be. We said to the community give us a proposal of what we might do next. We are certainly waiting for the proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 7-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we have some good hockey players in this House. I can certainly coach the Premier in terms of some moves that he can do on the Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Premier what is his government doing in terms of promoting the birthplace of ice hockey in the Northwest Territories? We have lots of ambassadors that go outside of the Northwest Territories that probably can say we are from the birthplace of ice hockey in Canada in the Northwest Territories or in Deline. What is his department doing with the other Ministers to promote this? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 7-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to put a lot of emphasis on sport. I think, through MACA, there has been a lot of good work done on healthy lifestyles and sports and so on. As we approach and now participated, and I think very successfully, in the Canada Winter Games, that we get ready for the 2010 games. There is an opportunity for us as a government to not only promote hockey, but to promote promotion of healthy living, sports generally and so on. Mr. Speaker, our strategy in this area includes hockey, but is going to be much broader than just hockey because there are a lot of

areas that our young people can excel in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 7-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I asked the Premier about what he is doing to promote Deline as the birthplace of ice hockey. I certainly agree with the Premier in terms of promoting healthy lifestyle outside the Northwest Territories. I would ask the Premier what is his government doing also to let Heritage Canada know, through CBC, that the broadcast was incorrect and they should get their facts straight and broadcast a segment that Deline is the birthplace of ice hockey? What is he doing to let CBC know and get their facts straight? This government recognizes it. The people in the Northwest Territories recognize it. I think it is about time CBC recognizes it. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 7-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we were in Deline, what we had said to the community, we want you to own this project. This will be your project, something that the community drives from the bottom up. Mr. Speaker, at that time, we said to the community give us a proposal. I am waiting for the proposal. In the interim, we are doing a lot of work more broadly on sports. I will take up, though, every opportunity to remind people of the history of Deline and the history of hockey. Mr. Speaker, in terms of CBC, maybe the Member missed a good opportunity last night when hearings were being held by the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage on the role of CBC. It is one we could have said to CBC, look, get your information right on a lot of things, including the birthplace of hockey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Question 8-15(6): Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik All-Weather Highway

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the honourable Premier Joe Handley. Last week, the Premier attended the opening ceremony of the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse and was to meet briefly with the Prime Minister, Stephen Harper. One of the priorities that the Premier indicated was the resource revenue and devolution deals. Also, at that time, requested the Premier to ask the Prime Minister about the Tuk-Inuvik highway. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier if he was able to raise that issue of the Tuk-Inuvik highway with the Prime Minister. If so, what did the Prime Minister have to say on whether there will be any funds to construct the Tuk-Inuvik highway in the upcoming budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 8-15(6): Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik All-Weather Highway

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was told to say that I was grovelling for gravel or something like that.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I did raise the issue of infrastructure, devolution and so on with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister, of course, is not as familiar with the specifics of our needs here. I did mention the Mackenzie Valley highway and the Inuvik-Tuk road and the need for infrastructure in order to be competitive with the rest of the world, whether it is on development or tourism or cost of living.

Mr. Speaker, I also took the opportunity last week when I had a meeting with Minister Prentice in Calgary to raise this one, as did representatives from Tuk, the mayor and the deputy mayor. Like I say, the federal government has said that that particular road is on the short list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 8-15(6): Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik All-Weather Highway

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was down at Calgary with Minister Prentice also. I appreciate that the Premier and his staff were able to get us to meet with Mr. Prentice even though it was a short meeting. I would like to find out whether...I know the Premier indicated grovelling for gravel, but that is one of the issues also. The gravel is close to source 177. It is close to the highway to Tuk-Inuvik, so that is part of the whole thing. So I would like to ask the Premier again. I am not too sure if he answered or not, but although the Prime Minister is not familiar with some of the issues that are up here, I guess with Prentice, will there be any indication that the money will be available in the upcoming budget? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 8-15(6): Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik All-Weather Highway

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we will have to wait until Monday for the answer to that. Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged by the fact that the Prime Minister didn't seem to be negative at all on the discussion on infrastructure and Minister Prentice went as far as to say that this particular road is on the short list. Now, what that means we will see on Monday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 9-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from the Sahtu is speaking to the birthplace of hockey. I would like to speak now from the birthplace of natural gas in the Northwest Territories. In my

Member's statement, I was speaking to the proponents going to Ottawa and asking for fiscal enhancements and looking for some more money to make this project go ahead. It is an important project in the Northwest Territories. I think they know it. I think they are using that to their advantage. I would like to ask the Premier if I could, when they approach Ottawa to ask for fiscal enhancements, is the Government of the Northwest Territories consulted or given a heads up that these questions are being asked? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 9-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have made it known that we expect to be part of the discussions. We have asked to be consulted on any discussions that will be taking place. Mr. Speaker, I can't say whether there have been discussions without our participation. I don't know all the phone calls and informal discussions and so on that may have taken place, but we have made it clear that we expect to be there as well because, while it may not affect us today, it may affect us in a big way in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 9-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier said that we expect to be consulted and he wasn't sure if there was talk going on right now. Who would that talk be between, bureaucrat to bureaucrat? I think the talks should be political leader to political leader. So I would like to ask the Premier. Who are the discussions between? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 9-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there are some technical discussions going on and our people are involved in those discussions. But I know there are also conversations that have happened between Ministers and the president of Imperial, and the president of Imperial Canada, and possibly higher up the chain in Exxon and so on in the federal government. I don't know what happens in phone calls or at receptions and other venues where some of this business takes place. But we have asked to be involved. We've asked to be updated, to be included in any discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 9-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that. A little while ago this government gave a letter of comfort to the proponents and I'd just like to ask the Premier, has this government been approached by the

proponents again for any further enhancements? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 9-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that the costs are in, now that we've got Imperial's numbers, then we should be able to get on with these discussions in earnest. I don't believe that there's ever been a three-way discussion where all of us are in a room at the same time. But I think that has to start to happen now in order that we know and can have our input into any kind of requests that Imperial may be making or any response from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 9-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my opening remarks, this is an important project for the Northwest Territories. I feel that the proponents know it and they are using it and will get almost anything they ask for for this project to go ahead, especially when Ottawa is going to get a nice cut of the royalties anyway. I'd like to ask the Premier if he's spoken to the aboriginal leaders on this recent announcement and what their feeling was on it. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 9-15(6): Federal Subsidies For The Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, we had a conference call yesterday with some of the leaders; not all the aboriginal leaders, but certainly the president of the Inuvialuit and the president or chairman of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. We had discussions yesterday. We agreed that we don't want to overreact to this. We know those numbers are Imperial's numbers. We haven't seen the detail of how exactly they've arrived at them. That we want to look at it, make sure that what we're asking for and what they are asking for and what we expect is that this project will be treated fairly, it will be treated with the same kind of consideration that is given to SunCore or to any other major mega project in Canada. No less, no more, but it should be treated the same way. This one is too important for us in the Northwest Territories to take a stand that just doesn't stand up to the way the federal government or governments generally have been treating other mega projects. So, Mr. Speaker, what we're asking for is to be treated the same way as other projects and this one, which I agree is critically important to the Mackenzie Valley and to the Delta, that it goes forward on an economic basis, but on a fair basis in terms of how other projects are treated in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 10-15(6): Impacts Of New Deal Funding Formulas On Tax-Based Communities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and get back to my Member's statement from earlier where I've suggested that the department isn't being fair with all communities. I think the department has an obligation to be fair to communities, whether they be small or whether they be tax-based larger communities. Case in point, if you look at the gas tax monies, it was 1 percent plus per capita, then on the MRIF it went to 1.5 percent plus per capita and now we're at 2 percent plus per capita. I'd like to ask the Minister why there's a steady escalation in the base which negatively impacts larger communities. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 10-15(6): Impacts Of New Deal Funding Formulas On Tax-Based Communities

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The New Deal for community governments was initially targeted for the non-tax-based communities. We had started proceeding in that area and this is a recommendation that went back to the Special Joint Committee on Non-Tax-Based Communities to provide better support to all our communities. After a lot of discussion at the Cabinet level and some studies that pointed to the situation with the larger tax-based centres, we decided to roll the tax-based communities into the whole New Deal concept and break out some of the dollars that were earmarked specifically for the small communities now was being shared by the larger communities. I think speaking of fairness, all the larger centres did very well. Fort Smith received 101 percent increase in their budgeting. Hay River received a 91 percent increase overall. Yellowknife received 63 percent. I think that's very fair. I can't see it working in a model where the smaller communities divide the money that's being cost shared across the board to a smaller pot where they can't do anything with it. Then the program wouldn't work, Mr. Speaker. So that's the reason for the 2 percent base. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 10-15(6): Impacts Of New Deal Funding Formulas On Tax-Based Communities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the Minister's making it sound like all the communities are lucky to get what they get. Tax-based municipalities should feel grateful for whatever they get. But the fact of the matter is the City of Yellowknife has been negatively impacted. The Minister mentioned a 63 percent increase, but according to the numbers I've got it's close to a \$600,000 loss because of the funding change, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, in terms of consistency, is there going to be a consistent approach and is this the base-plus now that MACA has? Is that going to be consistently applied, or are there going to be further increases to that base? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 10-15(6): Impacts Of New Deal Funding Formulas On Tax-Based Communities

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the base, this is the formula that we've introduced. All our formulas are in place. The water and sewer formula has been, the new model has been agreed upon. We've introduced forced growth in some of the programs and we've also decided on a formula for the capital, including the gas tax, and that is going to stay consistent. This year we weren't able to roll out all the capital because some of the projects had been, there's been... We had to carry them over. However, next year all the capital will be rolled out, the gas tax will be in place, all the funding will be rolling out April 1st, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 10-15(6): Impacts Of New Deal Funding Formulas On Tax-Based Communities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, judging by the concerns that were raised earlier by my colleague Mrs. Groenewegen and the concerns with the City of Yellowknife in terms of funding, would the Minister commit to sitting down with the officials of the City of Yellowknife, the Town of Hay River, and other communities that feel impacted by the funding and have a discussion regarding what they deem is consistent and fair in terms of an approach by MACA? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 10-15(6): Impacts Of New Deal Funding Formulas On Tax-Based Communities

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've done that already. We met with the City of Yellowknife, we met with the Town of Hay River, we met with all the communities of the Northwest Territories, and I think some of them even had a second go-round. But we'd certainly be willing to meet with the City of Yellowknife and if there's a desire from the Town of Hay River, we'd be willing to do that also. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay. Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 11-15(6): Airport Runway Extensions In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation. I want to ask the Minister of Transportation in terms of the dates here on the Transportation Canada's regulation on the extension of runways. I know the Minister is doing some studies. They're looking at some solutions, three years from now. Would the Minister look at some solutions with the northern airline companies in our region to look at what's feasible for our people, but also what would make Transport Canada satisfied in terms of the extension of our runways, because it's going to cost millions? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Menicoche.

Return To Question 11-15(6): Airport Runway Extensions In The Sahtu Region

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, the department is continuing to receive many, many requests to extend runways in the communities and the extensions are very expensive and they must be justified based on their needs there, Mr. Speaker. This fiscal year we are conducting another comprehensive study, as we have done one back in 1998, to look at the realities of extending the mini runways that are out in the communities and to see the exact cost estimates there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 11-15(6): Airport Runway Extensions In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly agree with the Minister, that many communities are asking for extension of runways. I'm asking for the Sahtu region. The communities that need their runways, such as Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Tulita and Deline, in terms of these runways being extended because the other communities have all-weather road access into their communities and some of them have a winter road that could go there. But our region here in terms of Mackenzie gas activity, will the Minister look at a solution by industry, by his government, by this government, by the federal government and also airline companies, saying we could do this instead of looking at spending millions of dollars? Otherwise we're going to put it, in the Sahtu, in jeopardy in terms of the safety of our aircrafts landing in our communities. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 11-15(6): Airport Runway Extensions In The Sahtu Region

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly supplying the communities is a concern, as well as getting in and out for many back services is absolutely a concern. Based on the information that our department has got from Transport Canada is that there's a bit of an incorrect reading of how the Transport Canada rules are to be applied. What they are saying is that their requirements for the runway extensions are, there will be a rule in 2010, but it doesn't really apply to ours. We've done an assessment and have determined that the runways that are currently in our communities suit our needs and the aircraft that are using them presently, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 11-15(6): Airport Runway Extensions In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. So, Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying that the people in the Sahtu can expect that a Beech 99, the Beech 200 planes, that sort will continue being used in the Sahtu region and that the ruling from Transport Canada will not hinder them and they will still be continuing on this type of service? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 11-15(6): Airport Runway Extensions In The Sahtu Region

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Without getting into the specifics, certainly it's the type of aircraft that is limited by the runway length, Mr. Speaker. Once again, we've determined that the current runway lengths are suitable for the communities that we do have.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 11-15(6): Airport Runway Extensions In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to have further discussions with the Minister, but that will be another time. Now, because of the aircrafts that are suitable, can they carry, like the Twin Otter, it's suitable but if you have...(inaudible)...come in they could haul 14 passengers. But if the zoning comes in, they have to cut back to nine passengers. The price ticket will go up, you know, and then who's that suitable for? The airline companies or for Transport Canada because they ain't suitable for our pockets in the Sahtu. It costs a lot of money. So we want to know, will they continue on with the type of service they have now, the number of passengers they have? Otherwise they'll have to cut back on the passengers. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 11-15(6): Airport Runway Extensions In The Sahtu Region

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. These concerns that the Member is bringing up are precisely why we're re-evaluating and conducting these new studies to have a real good look at the runways and the new modern regulations that he's concerned about that affects his communities and these aircraft in his area.

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

Question 12-15(6): Universal Partnership Agreements With Local Housing Authorities

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation or I'm not sure if the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. Just with the universal partnership agreements that are old, that are agreements between the LHOs and the NWT Housing Corporation. In these agreements, since the transfer to ECE for the Rental Subsidy Program and all the other 15 subsidy programs that ECE works with, there are no agreements, there's no mention in these universal partnership agreements that have the responsibilities and reporting requirements of each department and LHO involved, there's no mention of ECE in these reporting or these partnership agreements. So I'm just wondering when the NWT Housing Corporation was planning on

updating and putting out some relevant documents outlining everybody's roles and responsibilities in public housing and the delivery of rent subsidy programs to public housing clients. Is ECE going to be included in these universal partnership agreements? Are we going to revamp the whole thing? What are we going to do? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 12-15(6): Universal Partnership Agreements With Local Housing Authorities

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The universal partnership agreements are agreements between the local housing organization and the Housing Corporation. They don't directly include the Education, Culture and Employment department, although that department does provide support to the individuals as well. But, Mr. Speaker, we hadn't thought of revising them to include ECE in the agreements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 12-15(6): Universal Partnership Agreements With Local Housing Authorities

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's imperative that we have to involve ECE in these agreements, because the LHOs just don't know where they stand when they're dealing with ECE because they're not even in the agreements. Any kind of reporting requirements that ECE demands of the LHOs, where is that written? It's just written in the policy of the program delivery. There's nothing in the agreement that says we have to have these reports coming out every two months; ECE has to give them money every quarter on time. They can't wait an extra month or two months to get their quarterly funding, and ECE has to provide that on a timely basis. There's no agreement in place, a partnership agreement, that says they are bound to this agreement to provide money on a quarterly basis, and that's every three months to the day, not two or three months after the fact or the LHOs are in a deficit position. Can the Minister get ECE on board, I guess, because we're all in this public housing initiative together. So they should all be in one agreement, I would say. So can we do that? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 12-15(6): Universal Partnership Agreements With Local Housing Authorities

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to take a look at the agreements. I haven't read the wording in them, but, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that as it works it's the Housing Corporation that provides the funding to the LHOs. They don't get a cheque from ECE. ECE's relationship is with the Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation has a relationship with the LHO. But, Mr. Speaker, I'll undertake to have a look at those agreements to see whether or not there are some gaps left in there. I can assure the Member, though, that the Housing Corporation, the LHOs and the ECE regional

people are working effectively together. There may be disagreements, but they work together. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Time for question period has expired. I'll allow the Member a short supplementary. Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 12-15(6): Universal Partnership Agreements With Local Housing Authorities

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to ask, I know the LHOs are trying to work diligently with ECE. ECE, the feedback I'm getting is that they're really busy. They have so many subsidy programs that they don't even know where the LHOs sit from one day to the next when it comes to rent subsidies that they have to dish out income support and all that stuff. So I'm just wondering, just so we can get everybody on a level playing field, can we revisit these UPAs and get them updated that reflect everybody's responsibility in this whole public housing issue here that we have in the NWT that just never seems to go away and I don't think it's going to go away any time soon. But let's get up to snuff on it and get up to, you know...

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

Further Return To Question 12-15(6): Universal Partnership Agreements With Local Housing Authorities

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to take a look at the universal partnership agreements myself. I'm curious about this issue the Member is raising. Mr. Speaker, as well, we will review this issue to the oversight committee, which has senior level representation from both Housing Corporation and ECE, to have a look at to make sure that we're as streamlined as we can possibly be on this one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to seek unanimous consent to return to Item 6 on the Order Paper, oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? We will return to item 6, oral questions. Before we do that, the Chair is going to call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I will call committee back to order. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 13-15(6): Security Measures At Yellowknife Airport

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Transportation. I would like to know if the Minister or the Department of Transportation has anything to do with the security

measures that are in place at the Yellowknife Airport. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 13-15(6): Security Measures At Yellowknife Airport

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The security contract is put out by CATSA, which is a federal authority, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 13-15(6): Security Measures At Yellowknife Airport

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if this is a problem at most airports, but people are very reluctant to complain about airport security because if you do, they look at you suspiciously and wonder why you are complaining about it. The airport security check, the initial part of it when you walk through the metal detector, if you set the detector off, they take a wand and they should be able to just use the wand within inches of your body and if there is any metal, it should set off the alarm. But at the airport here in Yellowknife, on numerous occasions -- and this is something that probably people don't speak out about, but I'm going to speak out on their behalf -- they run the wand right on your body. I have a problem with that. I'd like to know if that's necessary. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 13-15(6): Security Measures At Yellowknife Airport

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of the exact methodology that the security personnel are using, Mr. Speaker. Once again, the security is a federal contract that's held by the Canadian Air Safety and Transport Agency, CATSA, but we can convey the Member's concern, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 13-15(6): Security Measures At Yellowknife Airport

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would appreciate if the Minister would do that, because I don't think that with the technology they're using, in terms of the wand, it is necessary to touch the passenger with the wand. I think that the wand will do its job without touching the person. I've gone through the airport here and that has happened and I've gotten down to the Edmonton airport and the person did the same thing. Before I turned around to have the wand go down my back, I said to the young lady do not touch me with that wand and then she didn't. So I don't think you have to touch the people with the wand. So does the Minister think that instructions from him and his department can change this process, because I just think it's inappropriate? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 13-15(6): Security Measures At Yellowknife Airport

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we can give them instructions, but we can certainly raise the concern with the CATSA officials with respect to this type of security method that they're using. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 13-15(6): Security Measures At Yellowknife Airport

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: With all due respect, when the wand does set off the alarm and they think there is metal in your pockets -- say you'd forgotten to take change out of your pockets -- then they respectfully say do you mind if we check and then if you're a female then they call a female security person over and then the female person does that, but I've just really had it with people with security wands running it right on your body. I think it's completely unnecessary. So I thank the Minister for looking into that for me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I didn't hear a question there. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 14-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask questions to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in regards to the letter he wrote to the YK 1 board asking them to consider leasing a school for the time that's required for the St. Joe's to go through renovation. Obviously there are lots of discussions being held about that and there are lots of questions that could go back and forth, but I do believe that it is probably best for the Minister to get together with the board to see if they could talk this out so that all the information could be out on the table and that a workable solution can be found. So I'd like to ask the Minister if he has any plans to meet with the board and see if we could approach it this way? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 14-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I sent the letter, I met with the chair and one other member of the board for YK 1 and suggested that with the letter that would be coming that it would be useful for me to meet with the entire board to discuss the situation. In the letter, I included a line inviting the board to meet with me and I have also suggested, since the letter has gone to the chair, that I am ready to meet with the entire board to discuss the situation. I think it's important to remember that there is an awful lot of vacant space in YK 1 and this isn't just about leasing space during the construction of St. Joe's or the reconstruction of St. Joe's, this is because they have so much space to

spare that I have suggested they need to put the money that they're duplicating right now on services into the classroom, into services for children so that they get a better education. Mr. Speaker, I think that they're spending over \$300,000 that they don't need to spend on administration that they could put into programs and services for kids. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 14-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MS. LEE: Thank you. My point is instead of the Minister making this statement in the House and the YK board having unilateral conversation with the parents only, I think it would be good if the Minister and the board get together and try to work this out. So could I ask the Minister, and he didn't answer that question, could I ask the Minister to commit to contacting them again and arranging a meeting? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 14-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've done that on a few occasions in the last couple of weeks. I'd be happy to do it one more time. I'd be happy to do it even more than once if that's what it takes, but, yes, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to meet and I'll make the first contact.

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

Question 15-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and it will be on the issue of the schools. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to hear from the Minister today, which is what is the ECE policy to run schools at over 100 percent capacity? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 15-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not a policy of Education, Culture and Employment to run schools over their stated capacity. What we do is allow our local boards to make decisions about where they place students, and that's entirely up to the boards as long as they live within the health and safety regulations. So we have a stipulated capacity. That isn't the absolute, safe capacity for having people in them or in the building. That sort of capacity would be set by the fire marshal. But as long as they live within those safety regulations, they can operate at a higher level of occupancy than what we say is the capacity of the building.

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

Supplementary To Question 15-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentioned about capacity on fire regulations. How does that capacity of the fire regulations compare to the enrolment of the schools in Yellowknife as it reflects to safety, Fire Code and potential legal concerns? Is he investigating these comparisons and having a full examination of this? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 15-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The owners of the buildings are expected to follow the relevant building codes and fire codes. When the buildings are constructed they're built to our standards. Our standards are such that we know that the building is not going to come anywhere near the rated capacity for safety and they're also inspected by the plant, inspected by fire inspectors and the buildings themselves are inspected regularly by the fire departments and fire inspectors. Thanks.

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

Supplementary To Question 15-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It should be noted both school boards, both, have, according to the Minister's numbers, have a slight over capacity, but the facts are the facts. So what is the Minister doing to ensure that responsible action is taken that safety is of the utmost importance and that, therefore, there is no cause of concern when you compare capacity levels that the schools have both shown that they are over and the fact that we have safe schools to attend? So what is he doing to ensure that safety is being put first? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 15-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the Member wasn't listening. I said there is no safety problem. That's determined by the capacity of the building and by the fire marshal and that's not an issue. The buildings are rated for a certain number of students. That's not rated on safety issues. That's rated on what the department feels is good practice in terms of space for educating students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 15-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I would challenge the Minister to provide that information and show that we have fire marshal information to prove that we are running these facilities safely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 15-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm satisfied that the safety of students in our system is ensured by the way in which the schools are administered. If the Member has a concern, I invite him to investigate with the office of the fire marshal so he gets some understanding of how that office undertakes its job.

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

Question 16-15(6): Extension Of Winter Road In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Transportation. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation if he would consider extending the winter road in the Sahtu for an extra two more weeks, at least to the end of the month, in terms of the cold weather and if he would give that consideration to the people?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Menicoche.

Return To Question 16-15(6): Extension Of Winter Road In The Sahtu Region

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have received requests from numerous communities in the Member's riding to keep the road open as long as possible, and I just want to say that it's all weather related. I think the land use permits do have a specific date and there is a date in our contracts as well and we can close it early or later, but it looks like the weather is holding out and it will be day by day, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 16-15(6): Extension Of Winter Road In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister certainly has a lot of power, even changing the weather so it's colder, colder times.

---Laughter

So I'll ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, in terms of his consideration for extending the winter road, does that also mean that there will be some work done on the winter road as it's fairly bumpy in some of the communities? Some of the comments by some of the members and even from the heavy equipment operators and truck drivers are saying that it's pretty bumpy on these roads here. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 16-15(6): Extension Of Winter Road In The Sahtu Region

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to keep the road open as long as possible and the industry that's operating in that area is interested in keeping the road open as long as possible as well. We will extend every effort to do that, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

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

Supplementary To Question 16-15(6): Extension Of Winter Road In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the Minister in his previous commitment in the previous session in terms of committing to come to the Sahtu and talk to people about some of the road conditions that we have experienced in the last couple of years and some things that we could do to save government money in terms of how do we improve our winter roads in the Sahtu. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 16-15(6): Extension Of Winter Road In The Sahtu Region

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'll be glad to travel to the Sahtu region to discuss the winter road issues and many others that he has in his riding, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

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

Question 17-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to continue questions to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on the capacity issue. Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's own words on the capacity issue, there is no policy in regards to running a school over 100 percent capacity. Then what is the Minister doing about this, considering that I can cite at least one school that's been running over capacity for at least a minimum of three years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 17-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, in case the Member wasn't listening, the issue of school utilization and capacity, the figures that are given for capacity are not based on safety. If you want to think about it, think about when the community uses a gym. There can be hundreds of people in that school, way more than what the school is rated for, and that's not a fire hazard. So schools are designed to hold a lot more people than what we would say that they would use for teaching.

There are other ways around to accommodate the different space. For instance, at St. Pat's in Yellowknife, which is shown as running over capacity, they're using classrooms in Weledah, which isn't running at full capacity, but the students are still shown as attending St. Pat's even though they're going 100 yards down the hall and using a classroom in what is a different school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 17-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, maybe if the Minister would hear the concerns on this side of the House, the fact is it's taken almost three years to finally get to this issue to start dealing with the capacity problem and now the only way to do this is to attempt to force, or, well, I don't know, slight of hand if I may say, to get one school board to give up a school. It's a fact this has been an issue for a number of years. So, Mr. Speaker, why has the Minister been delaying any type of decision? Is he waiting for someone else to make the decision? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 17-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been working with the boards in Yellowknife to try and resolve this situation for several years now. We are in a situation, though, where a previous government at some point decided to give ownership of schools in Yellowknife to the boards. So since this government doesn't, like it does in other communities, still own all of the schools, even though we pay for 100 percent of them, we don't have the flexibility to determine who uses the school facilities and when. So we've been working to and resolve that. We have a situation where in Yellowknife we have, right now, 843 empty spaces. Eight hundred forty-three empty spaces.

AN HON MEMBER: Shame.

HON. CHARLES DENT: That's the equivalent of more than 33 classrooms. There's lots of room in Yellowknife, but we need to figure out how to use it differently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 17-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, this crisis should have never happened. The Minister should have made a direction, should have made a policy position over two to three years ago. Yes, he's right; he's been dealing with this and I would say maybe not dealing with this by striking a report and then striking a committee and it's only when it comes down to the wire that we have to force a decision. We could have made this decision three years ago. Mr. Speaker, why did the Minister not do something to this issue in concrete terms

three years ago, rather than just making someone produce a report? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 17-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, clearly, the Member thinks that this government should have moved to expropriate one of the schools from YK 1. That's not the way in which we operate. We have two elected boards in town; we have worked to facilitate them to have some discussions about how they could utilize the space. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 17-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, we can't expropriate them because we don't own them and we can't tell them what to do. We're going to have to choke their funding on their maintenance budget or something. That is irresponsible, Mr. Speaker. Why isn't the Minister pursuing a shared perspective so we can deal with this capacity problem once and for all as a community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 17-15(6): Capacity Of Yellowknife Schools

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure that this government has the legislative ability to force a shared use of school facilities. So if the boards are prepared to share facilities, this government would support that 100 percent.

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

Question 18-15(6): Community Chest Freezer For Tulita

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of ITI. Some discussion happened with the people in Tulita in terms of when their community freezer was shut down and that the government, the previous Department of RWED, promised the community they would get community freezers. I guess I want to ask the Minister has he had any updates in terms of that request from last year? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 18-15(6): Community Chest Freezer For Tulita

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did inquire with the department. There is, I guess, a difference of opinion, if you will, in terms of what the community or some members in the community believe was promised and what the department understands the discussions were about, but it's some time now since I've raised this with the department and with the region. I

could go back and revisit that and report to the Member, and I'm prepared to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 18-15(6): Community Chest Freezer For Tulita

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not the first time people from my region have had some discretion in terms of discussions of the difference of opinions and interpretations between this government and my people and we can go back right to 1921 if you want to. But, Mr. Speaker, people in my community, people in prominent authority have said this is what the government said and nobody picked up the ball after that. So I ask if the Minister would go back into Tulita, sit down with the leaders in Tulita and say what type of discussions happened, what was promised, what were you guys expecting in terms of getting community freezers? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 18-15(6): Community Chest Freezer For Tulita

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, I'm certainly prepared to go back and revisit this, discuss this with the community leadership, understand better their feelings about what obligations were made by this government and what commitments were made by this government, then we can have some discussion around that. As the Members know, we are not in the community freezer business anymore. We've worked with communities and with traditional harvesters to try to accommodate them as much as possible to make sure that we provide chest freezers where there are facilities that we own and those are no longer viable. I'll go back and look at the ownership of the freezers in the Member's communities and we can talk about that. We would be willing to look to find a solution, Mr. Speaker. I think this government has demonstrated, over the last number of years, a commitment to supporting the traditional economy and traditional harvesters and I'm prepared to work toward that end. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 18-15(6): Community Chest Freezer For Tulita

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Minister if he would make a commitment to me in this House in terms of a time frame that we can get down to the people in the Sahtu, specifically the people in Tulita, listen to their concerns as to what was said at that meeting that would get them to say where are our chest freezers that the government said they were going to do? When, in terms of a timeframe? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 18-15(6): Community Chest Freezer For Tulita

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Sure, Mr. Speaker, we can commit to do that in the next month with the region, sit down with the people. I don't think the discussion going

back in the past would have been about chest freezers. I think it would have been about a community freezer. The idea to move to chest freezers is a very recent one. We just recognized that the community freezers, there were a number of problems with them. If they shut down and stopped operating, it's difficult to get somebody in to do the repairs; oftentimes the whole community's meat would spoil; they simply weren't reliable; and difficult to keep them clean. So that's why very recently we made the shift to moving toward community freezers. Back when the discussions would have happened with the leadership and RWED, there would have been no discussions around individual freezers, I don't believe, Mr. Speaker, but we can do that in the next month. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 18-15(6): Community Chest Freezer For Tulita

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate, and the people in the community appreciate, the commitment from the Minister to sit down and look at community freezers and this issue and see if we can find some resolution between the community and the department itself in terms of how do we get a community freezer into our community that would be beneficial to us. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 18-15(6): Community Chest Freezer For Tulita

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, again, we will sit down and speak with the region. I'll talk to my regional officials and I'm sure we can have some discussion. If the Member would be prepared to identify the people in his community who have raised this issue and this concern, I'll make sure that they get a hearing with the regional officials. Thank you.

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

Question 19-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask another question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment with respect to the space issues in Yellowknife schools, in particular the YK No. 1. Mr. Speaker, I was at that public meeting and so was the Minister and Member from Yellowknife Centre, and I understand the meeting was organized by the YK No. 1 leaders so the time for the Minister to give information as to why the government is proposing this action and, also, some of the answers that the parents were looking for were not able to be raised. I'd like to ask, once he meets with the board of trustees, would the Minister, if the resolution varies not satisfactory, and I don't want to presume that but in the event that it's not, would the Minister be willing to have a public gathering of parents of YK No. 1 and other stakeholders to explain and provide necessary information that the parents may be looking for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 19-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly something that's come up as an issue that needs to be looked at. I'm aware that the way this whole thing has been characterized, particularly by parent advisory groups and others associated with YK No. 1, has been of one school board taking over another. I want to stress again what is driving my recommendation to YK No. 1 is the fact that they should not be mothballing a school, whether another school is leased to a group or not, it doesn't really matter, they have that much excess capacity that they could put probably an extra \$300,000 into educating kids, rather than spending it on administration. It would require some reconfiguration of schools, but with the equivalent of 33 to 35 classrooms to spare in the system, they can do that without coming anywhere capacity or overcrowding. So that's what this is about. It's about whether or not we should continue, this government should continue to spend extensive public monies just to keep bricks and mortar open, or if we should ensure that there is some pressure put on the education bodies to put the money, first of all, into the classroom and into assisting kids to get a better education. That's our position.

Now if we have a construction project at the same time which would allow us to take advantage of space that isn't being used for anything else and put students in so we don't have to rent space like in an old grocery store or bring in some portables that would cost us money, since we paid for the facilities in the first place, we think we should be able to take advantage of them during that construction process. We've pointed out that there would not necessarily be any large amount of disruption, because one of the schools that is scheduled for renovation for YK No. 1 has to be shut down in order to be renovated. So it could be shut down two years earlier than planned and then when its renovation was ready to start, there wouldn't be any further disruption to YK No. 1 students. Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to have any kind of meeting that it's going to take to get that message out and try and have some kind of rational discussion about the reasons for what we're proposing here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 19-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I heard the answer to the specific question that I asked. My observation is that we have a duly elected board at the education district level in Yellowknife, as we do in other communities, but the GNWT plays a vital role in terms of building school facilities as well as funding the O and M for delivering those programs. In my experience where parents have been asking me, I think that adding information, or information that goes beyond and putting more context to what this issue is helping the parents. In the end, it's going to be the decision for the parents and the board and all the stakeholders, but I think that best decisions will be made when all the information is out there. So I'd like to ask the Minister again, will the Minister commit to having some kind of meeting or public forum with the YK No. 1 parents directly, if necessary, in

order that at least ensure all the information goes out there? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 19-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If absolutely necessary, then I would be prepared to go to that end, but I would prefer to try and work with YK No. 1 and that's why I have asked to meet with the board. I would hope that we can find some way to work together to have that sort of public meeting but, if we can't, then, yes, I'll look at having a public meeting with stakeholders here.

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

Supplementary To Question 19-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then in the event, and I do hope also that YK No. 1 trustees can work something out with the Minister, but in the event that that does not happen, in the interests of parents and mostly for the students in YK No. 1, would the Minister give me an indication as to what is his time frame when he would be thinking that he would need to meet directly with the parents of YK No. 1? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 19-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that we could move this along to resolution fairly quickly. If not within the next month, certainly no later than the end of April.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 20-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to continue questioning the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on this school board matter. Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that there was no legislation that exists in order to, sort of, converge this problem about giving formal direction. Mr. Speaker, I think we have a moral obligation to do something to find a working solution, and turning off the lights at one school is not a solution, Mr. Speaker. So the fact is, is the Minister pursuing any type of legislation that will help make the school boards work better together in the face of these challenges? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 20-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure that we have the capacity at this level of government to impose the kind of solution the Member is

talking about. It would likely take federal legislation. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 20-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this issue has been on the table for over three years. Why hasn't the Minister of Education been doing something about this problem? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 20-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure. This isn't something that I can give the legal answer to, but I'm not sure that even a change in federal legislation would ever require or allow an imposed solution where one party owns the facility. That's sort of the problem that we've come to. There has to be a willingness among one of the partners to talk about that ownership. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 20-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very disappointed in that answer, because we have a lot of frustrated parents out there trying to find a workable solution. Mr. Speaker, at the very least, will this Minister be answering all the questions that were formally posed last week at the public meeting? At least that would head towards some type of workable solution. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 20-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand how emotionally attached people are to a school in their neighbourhood, but it isn't something that's new in North America, that schools that are underused get shut down. If you go to, for instance, the Edmonton Public School's website, you'll find that they have, right now, three schools proposed for closure on the website. As part of the presentation, they talk about how that money that is being spent on a principal, an extra janitor, extra administrative staff in the office is now going to be moved into a classroom in an adjacent school. They talk about how that's going to improve what goes into the education of the students.

They also talk about how schools have been sold, leased, have been used by the City of Edmonton, have been used for all sorts of different things. Some have been sold to church groups for use as schools. Others are being used by other non-government organizations and they are collecting leases. So this isn't something that's new. If you have a situation where everybody says we have all of this space, we aren't prepared to even consider consolidating when we don't need all of that space, then you are in a

situation where you are bound to have a bunch of money wasted.

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

Supplementary To Question 20-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, parents are happy, students are learning, kids are graduating with excellent marks. There is excellence flowing into these programs and it's certainly proving well. Mr. Speaker, the Minister says he basically doesn't have authority. Then what does he really have authority for at the end of the day? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 20-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, for once the Member and I agree on something. We have two excellent boards operating in Yellowknife. We actually have three excellent boards operating in Yellowknife.

---Applause

We are doing well in terms of graduation rates. So that's something we should celebrate. But you know what? What we are proposing won't change that. What it will do is allow some money to improve even further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Oral questions. The honourable member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 21-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Floyd Roland, regarding the Aboriginal Wellness Program at Stanton Hospital. Would he update us on the role of the Aboriginal Wellness Program? Is it on target? Is it on time? Do we have sufficient resources to make it go regarding the clientele it's serving in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker?

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

Return To Question 21-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program that's been discussed is working with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Stanton authority. I understand the rollout had a couple of minor hiccups along the way, but things are proceeding as planned, from my understanding. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 21-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am certainly glad these are only hiccoughs, nothing more than that. In terms of the rollout we planned, are the programs we want to implement on target, the number of staff that we have to serve the clients we have? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 21-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, from the information I have, I don't have a lot of detail right now and I will have to get that detail and get back to the Member on some of the specifics he's raised here. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 21-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the Minister's detailed response. I asked the Minister if he looked at an issue at Stanton Hospital. When you come into the hospital in the front foyer, we have a lot of our aboriginal clients coming into the hospital. Can the Minister look at placing an aboriginal person at the front foyer that speaks one of the dialects for people who come in for visits or emergencies, so they feel more comfortable speaking in their own language? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 21-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have tried to manage the system of official languages and having the appropriate level of services and translator services at our territorial facility, as well as our facilities throughout the North. It would be very difficult to try to have someone in person who was able to speak an aboriginal language of the majority of people in the Territories. That would take quite a number of people to try to greet people at the front. So we have tried to manage within our available resources and the system that we have in place. Hopefully, we can continue to try to work with what we have and try to improve it somewhat, but I say it would be difficult to have a person there to greet someone at the front door in all of our official languages, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 21-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Minister. My intention was to have some aboriginal person, a summer student, a student, that could come and greet the people and direct them to the appropriate services that they need. It could be an aboriginal person who is studying nursing or an aboriginal person working in translation services; someone who

could be in the front foyer who could help. I know they have other people and they are fairly busy, but just one station, one cubicle dedicated to visitors and some patients who would come and shake the hand of an elder and see what kind of help they need. I know that's a request that our people are asking. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 21-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I would have to have a discussion with the deputy, but again that would be difficult if we had to make a decision as to one majority aboriginal language in the Northwest Territories. It is a territorial facility and we do have a lot of different dialects, even within one language group. So that could be fairly difficult to try to have. We will continue to try to enhance the level of service we do have today and use that to try to make sure we can get the right services at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

Question 22-15(6): Rental Arrears In Behchoko

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation about the status of the letter I wrote to the department regarding having a team come out to Behchoko to do a complete review of the rental arrears in the community of Behchoko. What is the status on that? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 22-15(6): Rental Arrears In Behchoko

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know this was a big issue that was discussed at the meeting that the Housing Corporation attended in February. The Housing Corporation is following up. Many of these need one-to-one counselling relationships. That's the approach the corporation is taking in response to the Minister's letter as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 22-15(6): Rental Arrears In Behchoko

MR. LAFFERTY: I like that, "the Minister's letter." Just a follow-up on the need for consultation with the community, the rental arrears and the clients. I realize it's going to take some time, but if we can start the initial discussion with the clients, the sooner the better. I have been waiting from the department. My constituents are asking what the status is since we had the public meeting. So when can we see that happen; the first initial stage? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 22-15(6): Rental Arrears In Behchoko

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had assumed that this had already started. Mr. Speaker, I will check with the department. If they haven't already begun to work one on one with clients, then I would ask that they start right now. There isn't any reason to be delaying, Mr. Speaker. It's our goal, as the Housing Corporation, to fulfill that prophecy of having clients who feel that they are being treated well, are living in good housing, people who are healthy and happy and can afford what we provide them. So, Mr. Speaker, we want to achieve that and I hope the Housing Corporation is already talking with people. Thank you, Mr. Handley.

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

Question 23-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services again in terms of this position. For me, it's a serious issue. You have a lot of people come into the hospital, a lot of people who come in and sit down. Nobody comes to see them and they sit there a long time. I have been in that position. I have seen people. I am asking for someone to be in there and have workers already there who can have an office in the front. I know they have the aboriginal language coordinator and they do really good work. Let me tell you, they are doing some really good work there. They have those people there. I am asking to put an office or do some creative thinking. I am not sure what it will cost in extra dollars to have somebody there who would at least come and see people. These are people who go to the hospital for good reasons. This is not Wal-Mart. I am saying they go there for good reasons and we should pay some homage and respect for greeting all kinds of people. So I am asking the Minister, would he look at this issue here?

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

Return To Question 23-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to sit down with the Member and have more of a discussion with the Social Programs committee. The issue is, and he touched on it a bit, the fact that we've just passed the budget for 2007-08 and as also raised in this House of the concerns around funding for the Stanton facility itself. It is going to be challenging to expand the services beyond what they are, but I am prepared to sit down with the Social Programs committee on this issue. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 23-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly welcome the Minister to sit down with the Social Programs committee. Can he do some prep work and look at his department and see where he can find some of the resources in terms of how this can get done, how it can be

laid out in terms of having his meeting with the Social Programs committee members?

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

Further Return To Question 23-15(6): Aboriginal Programs At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, again, it's very difficult to see where we can find from within. Again, I am prepared to sit down with committee to go through what may be there. Ultimately, it may be an exercise where we put it on a request of forced growth or new initiatives in another budgeting planning session. Thank you.

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

Question 24-15(6): Assistance For Residential School Survivors

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in terms of the recent Member's statement on a residential school gathering in Ndilo. I would like to ask the Honourable Charles Dent about his department taking the lead in helping the survivors with this painful issue. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 24-15(6): Assistance For Residential School Survivors

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member, last fall, brought up the issue about the need for this government to be involved in making sure that services to people who had suffered the abuse at residential schools were coordinated and that we needed to coordinate not only within our own government, but with outside agencies. Earlier this year, in January, we coordinated a meeting of not only GNWT departments but outside agencies including the RCMP, churches, survivor groups and the federal government, to make sure that everybody knew what the program would be. We are trying to make sure that everybody, whether they are in the smallest community or largest community, knows how to access the services that they might need, knows how to contact Indian residential schools resolution to get one of the benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 24-15(6): Assistance For Residential School Survivors

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his discussions with the other departments, would the Minister considering bringing an issue to his counterparts in terms of dealing with the residential schools and determine if there is a need for a residential school unit in the Government of the Northwest Territories? I know there are different departments that have different input in terms of this issue, but there is really no one number that they can call, unless I am mistaken. I might be wrong. Survivors might be able to call a number in the Northwest

Territories for treatment programs or help with Ottawa's Indian residential school program. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 24-15(6): Assistance For Residential School Survivors

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process has just been given a final approval through the judicial system. I expect that in the next little while, there will be one number available that Canadian residents will be able to call to access service. If that doesn't happen, we will work through the interagency committee that we set up to see if we can find a way to ensure that there is an easy contact for people in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 24-15(6): Assistance For Residential School Survivors

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Would the Minister look at the possibility of setting up a residential school unit in the Government of the Northwest Territories that would be called the GNWT residential school unit where survivors can call? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 24-15(6): Assistance For Residential School Survivors

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to be careful that we aren't stepping into an area where the federal government has fiscal responsibility. This government has a responsibility for providing services for all of our residents, but if we set up a special unit to deal with this, we are stepping into an area that the federal government should be taking on. We want to make sure that everybody who has a role to play in the Northwest Territories knows how to help somebody access service. That's our first goal. If we can find a way to work with the federal government that they would be willing to fund this sort of operation, we would be more than happy to have this kind of thing set up. I will ensure that that is discussed at the next interagency meeting.

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

Supplementary To Question 24-15(6): Assistance For Residential School Survivors

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will certainly support the Minister in terms of how he would work with the federal government in terms of how he would fund these types of positions. I would also ask the Minister if he would work with some of the aboriginal organizations that are taking on this initiative, and seeing how governments can work with the Government of the Northwest Territories in funding these types of programs in the North; that they pay for them, not us. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 24-15(6): Assistance For Residential School Survivors

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would welcome a partnership with any aboriginal government, aboriginal organization, or any non-government organization, or the federal government, to make sure that all northern residents have the best possible access to programs.

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

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 1-15(6): Care For Alzheimer's And Other Dementias

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three carefully crafted, concise questions this afternoon for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

---Laughter

1. Would the Minister please provide statistics on the number of geographic locations of the NWT residents suffering from Alzheimer's and dementias?
2. Would the Minister please provide the projections for the next 20 years for NWT residents requiring specialized care for Alzheimer's and other dementias?
3. How many NWT residents stricken by dementias are now being cared for in southern institutions, and at what cost?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Written questions. Petitions. Reports of standing and special committees. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 1-15(6): Towards Excellence: A Report On Post-Secondary Education In The NWT, 2005

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Towards Excellence: A Report on Post-Secondary Education in the NWT, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

Tabled Document 2-15(6): Grants And Contributions Programs Results Report, 2005-2006

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Grants and Contributions Programs Results Report, 2005-2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Tabled Document 3-15(6): Summary Of Questions From Yellowknife School Board No. 1 Public Meeting On Facilities Issue

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document to publicly recognize summary questions -- 33 to be exact -- which are from the affected and concerned parents at a meeting held on March 7th at William McDonald, which clearly outlines their frustration. The name of the document is YK 1 Public Meeting Facility Issue, March 7, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker., I seek unanimous consent to refer back to item 7, written questions. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, written questions. Are there nay nays? There are no nays. You may return to item 7, written questions. Mr. Lafferty.

REVERT TO ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 2-15(6): Culture And Language Programs In Tlicho Communities

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

1. Can the department please provide detail information on the funding to Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School, specifically the culture and language programming funds for the year 2006-2007?
2. Can I request a breakdown on the number of person years in the culture and languages areas for the fiscal year 2006-2007 in the Tlicho region?
3. Can I also get a breakdown of funding on the culture and language program funds, for Whati, Gameti, and Wekweeti schools for the 2006-2007 fiscal year?
4. Finally, please provide detailed information on culture and languages funds that are contributed to other Tlicho community organizations, and who delivers these important programs besides the community schools for the fiscal year 2006-2007?

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Written questions. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1-15(6): Territorial Power Subsidy Program

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government undertake a comprehensive review of the Territorial Power Subsidy Program, including the comparison of the power consumption levels in the various regions and during different months of the year, to identify changes to

the program to ensure power is affordable for residents for all NWT communities throughout the year, while maintaining an incentive for residents to limit their non-essential power consumption; and further, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government report back to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight with options for such a change by August 3, 2007; and furthermore, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the government direct the NWT Power Corporation to develop an incentive to develop user-friendly, real-time in-home metering, which will allow residential consumers to monitor and, where appropriate, reduce their power consumption.

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

Motion 2-15(6): Extended Adjournment Of The House To May 9, 2007

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when the House adjourns on March 15, 2007, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, May 9, 2007; and further, that any time prior to May 9, 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 at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of ITI, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to go back to item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Are there nay nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

REVERT TO ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: An Act To Amend The Partnership Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, I will move that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

Bill 2: An Act To Amend The Condominium Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, I will move that Bill 2, An

Act to Amend the Condominium Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Legal Services Act

On Thursday, March 15, 2007, I will move that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act, be read for the first time.

Bill 7: Safer Communities And Neighbourhoods Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, I will move that Bill 7, Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Bill 4: Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation Act

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, I will move that Bill 4, Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Bill 5: An Act To Amend The Child And Family Services Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, I will move that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, be read for the first time.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Krutko.

Bill 6: Workers' Compensation Act

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, I will move that Bill 6, Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 14, 2007:

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
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters
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, March 14, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.

The House adjourned at 17:07.

---ADJOURNMENT