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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Monday, May 14, 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): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 14-15(6): Skills Canada

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, on April 19, 2007, youth from across the Northwest Territories participated in the 9th Annual Territorial Skills Competition. Over 100 northern youth were entered into the various competitive events designed to foster careers and trades in technology. I would like to extend congratulations to those who took part, especially those competitors in the worksite safety event.

The worksite safety event involved three parts. Competitors gave an oral presentation on workplace health or safety topic of their choice. They took a written test and were also asked to identify safety hazards at a mock worksite overseen by the Workers' Compensation Board safety officers. To qualify to compete, the participants first had to take the Safety and the Young Worker Program offered through the Workers' Compensation Board. This year, there were 12 participants at the territorial level, 11 in the junior category and one in a senior category. The students who participated performed well and I encourage them to return next year.

Across Canada, people are beginning to realize that workplace accidents must not be accepted as part of our working lives. Every workplace injury can be prevented if safety is the first priority. In participating in the worksite safety competition, these youth are not only demonstrating a commitment to workplace safety, they are leading by example and building the foundation for a culture of safety in the next generation of workers in the Northwest Territories.

For proof of this commitment to workplace safety, we need to look no further than our territory's record at the national level where NWT participants have been awarded the gold medal in this category for three of the past six years. I would like to applaud all the youth who participated at the territorial level; in particular Keegan Lower and Peter Boggis who received gold medals in the worksite safety event for the junior and senior categories respectively. Peter Boggis who won the gold in this category at the national competition last year will be once again moving to compete against the best and safest youth of Canada.

I wish him the best of luck and best of luck to the other NWT competitors who are moving on to the National Skills Canada Competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 15-15(6): Get Active NWT Campaign

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise my colleagues that on May 15th, the Minister of Health and Social Service and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment will join me in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly to launch the 2007 Get Active NWT summer campaign.

The 2007 Get Active event is a friendly challenge to residents of the Northwest Territories to register the time they spend being physically active for a chance to win a \$5,000 grant to support their community recreation program, a \$500 grant for the most active groups and airline tickets to Edmonton.

AN HON. MEMBER: Buy north.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: During our 2006 Summer Get Active challenge, nearly 18 percent of residents were recruited to log over 10 million minutes of physical activity. In the recently completed 2007 Get Winter Active challenge campaign, 380 NWT youth logged nearly 631,000 minutes of physical activity.

The 2007 Get Active campaign is posed to be even better with additional prizes for participants, special Get Active community events in all regions, and more partners joining in, including the Canadian Cancer Society, First Air, the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association and many others.

As impressive as the participation numbers have been in the past years and the expectation for this year's campaign, it is known that there are a great many individuals who carry on their personal commitment to physical activity and a heavy lifestyle without ever logging a single minute into a campaign such as this one. To all those silent role models, congratulations on your efforts and the examples that you set.

Each year in Canada, more than two-thirds of deaths result from four groups of chronic diseases: cardiovascular, cancer, two types of diabetes and respiratory. These chronic diseases share common, preventable risk factors including physical inactivity, unhealthy diet and tobacco use.

The Get Active campaign is one of a number of efforts the Government of the Northwest Territories is supporting to promote all residents to live healthier lifestyles. Even if a few more people can be convinced to be physically active, the cost savings for the health care system is huge and the lifestyle improvements immeasurable.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all Members of the Legislative Assembly for helping to set an example and I encourage you to promote Get Active and other healthy lifestyle choices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 16-15(6): Camping NWT - On-Line Reservation System

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories has one of the most impressive parks systems in all of Canada. On May 1, 2007, the system was improved when the Department of ITI launched its new territorial parks on-line reservation system. The web address is www.campingnwt.ca.

The on-line reservation system is one of several initiatives being undertaken by Industry, Tourism and Investment to enhance the camping experience in NWT parks.

In 2006, we were pleased to roll out the first phase of the on-line reservation program at Fred Henne Park in the North Slave region. This year, we've expanded the service to all of the other major territorial parks in the territory. In the North Slave region this includes Prelude and Reid Lake parks. In the South Slave: Twin Falls, Hay River and Queen Elizabeth parks. In the Deh Cho: Samba deh, Blackstone, Fort Simpson, and in the Inuvik region: Happy Valley and Jak Park Campground.

A key feature of the on-line reservation system is the ability to actually see pictures of the site you are interested in. You can see what amenities are available and then be able to book the site on-line. This is accomplished thanks to the installation of satellite communications in each of the participating parks. We have been able to provide this value-added tool to the public due to the cooperation and support of our various parks contractors across the NWT. I would like to commend our private sector partners for this support.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative, as well as constantly improving park facilities and infrastructure and ongoing staff training, are all part of the department's goal to make camping in the NWT a memorable and positive experience. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 17-15(6): Youth Employment Opportunities In The GNWT

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, a sure sign of spring in many NWT communities is the return of summer students. The GNWT Summer Student Program is one way we offer to hire and train northerners as future public servants.

In 2001, the GNWT introduced the Maximizing Northern Employment Initiative. As part of this initiative, the Northern Student and Northern Graduate Employment programs were established. These programs encourage northern students to pursue post-secondary degrees and diplomas, and then work in the NWT after graduation.

Graduates can access internships and specialized skill development training. Qualified northern graduates of nursing, social work and teaching programs are guaranteed a job offer somewhere in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, since 2001, the Graduate Nursing Program has placed 87 northern nursing graduates. The Graduate Social Work Program has placed 16 social workers and

the Graduate Teacher Program has placed over 50 teachers.

For students finishing a year of post-secondary schooling, we have a Summer Student Hiring Program that helps students receive progressive, relevant experience directly related to their studies.

In 2006, the GNWT provided 343 summer students with employment between April and September. Mr. Speaker, as of this week, 195 students have already been hired for summer 2007 in seven NWT communities. This includes 56 priority one and 108 priority two individuals. These employment opportunities offer students an insight into the public service work environment. They also provide employees with an opportunity to share their knowledge and skills with future job seekers.

Our Graduate Internship Program has been successful in attracting northerners to the public service. Since 2001, over 260 northerners have participated in the internship program. Over 88 interns from the program have joined the GNWT in indeterminate positions. Of those who have moved on, many have returned to school for advanced degrees or gone to work for other northern employers. Mr. Speaker, 35 interns will join the GNWT this year.

I invite my colleagues to join me in welcoming all the interns and summer students who are joining the public service this year. The time spent with the GNWT will provide these individuals with valuable work experience. Our northern students and graduates will be filling essential positions in the future.

Mr. Speaker, these programs serve as examples of how the GNWT is preparing, developing and retaining northerners in the public service. As North American labour markets become more competitive, we need to look at our own staff and other northern residents and the educational programs we provide in order to fill our public service positions with the best candidates.

We could not provide the quality programs that we do without dedicated public service employees. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the time, energy and dedication they bring to mentoring and training our new employees. Through their efforts, the GNWT continues to offer an exciting and vibrant workplace for northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Juno Award Recipient Leela Gilday

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to stand in this Assembly and acknowledge the significant milestones and achievements on behalf of constituents and residents. In this light, it was a great moment for a tremendous northern family, a Yellowknife family and the whole NWT to see that Leela Gilday was acknowledged as the Juno Award winner for aboriginal recordings...

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. BRADEN: ...for her second album Sedze. It was only the latest in a string of awards for this talented young woman, Mr. Speaker. She had previously been

recognized by the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards as the best female artist and songwriter for her first CD Spirit World, Solid Wood. That CD is also recognized as the best folk album.

Leela Gilday is a First Nations singer born and raised in Yellowknife. Of course, the achievements of her father, Bill, are known far and wide. He has a long history in Yellowknife and the NWT. He's the founder and the mainstay of the Gumboots, which have several CDs behind them and makes a tremendous contribution to the students in this community through his leadership of the Sir John Franklin bands and choirs.

Mr. Speaker, his daughter, Leela, was the first northerner to graduate with an honours degree in classical music from the University of Alberta. She wowed the whole country with her tremendous performance at the opening ceremonies for the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse.

The sacrifices that Leela and many others like her make in the performing arts is sometimes something that goes without a lot of recognition. This is the season of festivals coming up, Mr. Speaker. We have several going on in the NWT. In Fort Smith, the South Slave Friendship Festival; the Midway Lake Music Festival up north; in Fort Simpson they will be hosting the Open Sky Festival; and here in Yellowknife, of course, Folk on the Rocks and the Summer Solstice Festival.

To the volunteers, the performers and the sponsors, Mr. Speaker, they all deserve a standing ovation and the best wishes for a great summer season to come. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Criminal Activity In Downtown Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to raise an issue about what is commonly known as the downtown problem. Mr. Speaker, as you mentioned in your opening statement of this sitting, we had the pleasure of a number of visitors to this Legislature prior to the session. While visiting with the women parliamentarians and the senior civil servants for the leadership tour, I was struck by one common topic that emerged from two totally separate set of visitors. After they each profusely commented on how friendly the people were and how beautiful some of the sites were, the women talked about how scared they were about walking through some streets in our downtown in broad daylight. One of the civil servants, who is an RCMP officer, spoke quite matter of factly about observing two drug deals that were going down in our downtown parking lot. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, through her expert eyes it was very plain to see.

We are well aware of the goings on in our downtown streets, but I am sure this is not what we want to showcase or make an impression to our visitors. Mr. Speaker, I know that the RCMP is aware of the drug issues and especially the youth being targeted. They have been working hard to focus their resources on that and they have also been working on other ways to free up resources and put them to more efficient use, but the fact is the RCMP in Yellowknife is stretched and they are not able to put enough boots on the ground as much as they need to. In looking at the numbers, Mr. Speaker, I know it appears as though we have a growing detachment in Yellowknife, but the fact is Yellowknife serves all of the

surrounding communities without RCMP detachments and every time they have to travel to these communities, they are taken off our streets. They are also required to do a lot of admin work, which I believe could be done by civilian or other branches in the GNWT like court services.

Mr. Speaker, as I see it, the government must pay more attention to this and address it in a two-pronged way. One is we must undertake a comprehensive review on how we can reduce admin work or secondary work being placed on RCMP officers so they can spend more time on the streets. Secondly, we need to have RCMP officers in every surrounding community, so that they don't have to rely on the Yellowknife detachment and if they are, these numbers should not be counted as Yellowknife detachment and inflate the numbers and, therefore, making it look like there are enough services. I am telling you, we need to do something about this downtown issue. We need more boots on the ground. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Boots on the ground!

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

Member's Statement On Tire Recycling

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, the Beverage Container Recovery Program is one which was welcomed by Members of this Assembly and has been well received by the public. There are still some questions and some fine tuning that could occur, but generally it has been quite successful. Now it's time to turn our minds to the expansion of our waste recovery program. One area I would like to speak about today is the recovery of used tires.

There are numerous environmental benefits and some potential economic advantages as well. Right now, discarded tires are being stored at landfill sites and many other locations. I saw with my own eyes right here in Yellowknife what can happen should these tires catch fire. I am surprised that more harm did not come from the fire that started at the Yellowknife landfill on a Saturday morning a few years ago. Runoff from tire fires can contaminate groundwater and surface water and are also virtually impossible to extinguish. Waste tires are also an ideal habitat for mosquitoes to breed in.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of ways to recycle tires and turn a potential environmental hazard into something useful. In Canada, tires have been used to line the surface of reservoir slopes and hydroelectric projects. These tires help to stabilize the underwater slope and provide a habitat for animals. Tires can also be sunk in water to create artificial reefs, which become a habitat for fish species. Tire chips can be used to replace conventional construction materials; for example, road fill, gravel, crushed rock or sand. The benefits of using tire chips instead of conventional construction materials are reduced density, improved drainage properties and better thermal insulation.

Mr. Speaker, across Canada, provinces, as far back as 1996, have found innovative ways to both recycle tires and to fund their recycling. Mr. Speaker, tire recycling is not only good for the environment, it can also help to create a new industry; an industry that could be located in Hay River. Tire recycling needs to be included in the Department of ENR's Waste Management Strategy, and later today I'm going to have questions for the Minister of ENR about what our government is doing about waste

tires and whether or not he'd like to buy Hay River a tire shredder. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Adjustments To Student Financial Assistance Rates

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, within the next few weeks we'll have high school students graduating from Grade 12. The past couple weeks we've had Aurora College convocations, and we've got some students graduating from southern institutions. First, I want to congratulate all these grads and wish them nothing but the best in their future goals.

We continue, Mr. Speaker, to have one of the best systems for post-secondary education in the country, but there still needs to be some work done on the Student Financial Assistance Program. Imagine how many more students, Mr. Speaker, we may be able to see complete their post-secondary education. We have to adjust the SFA to reflect the cost of living between the South and the Northwest Territories. One dollar, Mr. Speaker, in Edmonton will not be the same as \$1 in Inuvik or Yellowknife or Fort Smith. It would be about a \$1.80, almost two bucks up here. We have to adjust the SFA to reflect this.

I've always said, Mr. Speaker, and I believe, that the NWT has the best support system for our students looking to further their education and training. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has to have a serious look at the SFA rates and adjust them accordingly. This is a concern that I still hear from students attending college in Inuvik. We may have, we may continue, Mr. Speaker, to see more northern students graduating and, who knows, we may even have training positions for them within the GNWT. Then they can give their own people a hard time instead of someone that just moved north. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On 911 Emergency Telephone Response Service

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In September of 2001, the chief coroner of the Northwest Territories issued a recommendation that the City of Yellowknife, the RCMP, and Municipal and Community Affairs implement the 911 service in Yellowknife and then expand those services to other communities in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, here we are six years after that recommendation to move forward on 911 service, and still the government is dragging its heels and not moving this much needed emergency response issue forward.

Mr. Speaker, I was a city councillor back in 2001 and remember quite clearly the discussion at the time as focussed on the fact that the Government of the Northwest Territories could not help implement 911 service in Yellowknife without providing the entire territory with the service. Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the GNWT has to start somewhere. There is no reason that I have seen nor heard why we can't start with communities like Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith.

Currently when you call 911 you get a computerized voice message saying "Sorry, there are no 911 services in your area. Please hang up and dial the emergency number for your area or hang up and dial zero." This, Mr. Speaker, is just not good enough. When the potential exists for people's lives to be at risk, 911 is a much easier number for children to learn and to remember. If you were to conduct a survey in our communities, I would be surprised if more than 50 percent of the population knew the numbers for the RCMP or emergency services.

Nine-one-one is a North American standard and it is about time that the Government of the Northwest Territories gets on with helping communities that can be easily hooked up into a system such as Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith. How can the government ignore the coroner's recommendation for six years for what would appear to be solely political reasons? My constituents, the city of Yellowknife, and all of our residents here in the Northwest Territories deserve much better, Mr. Speaker. I'll have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs at the appropriate time. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Standard Designs For Government Building Infrastructure

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I'd like to talk about sustainable standard design for government building infrastructure. Instead of spending money on original designs for every single public building each time we build a new facility, what if we came up with a sustainable standard design? I'm talking about a modular public facility with room for expansion to grow with the population as needed. After a concept has been developed the money saved in design, fees could be put back into more infrastructure for all our communities. By standardizing or even streamlining our designs and the building materials, we would be able to realize true cost savings on these projects.

A northern design is the opportunity before us, Mr. Speaker. This would also allow us to work with our latest technology best suited for our location and environment. Efficiencies can be found through engaging our local architects and engineer professionals about what really works, what is environmentally sound, and what is technologically realistic in a northern environment.

The problem is simple and it truly is before us. Are we overdesigning our public infrastructure to look like pieces of art? Are they losing their functionality because a statement needs to be made over the quality of the design? Let's face it; for the most part, sweeping, curved roofs, rounded walls, odd-shaped windows, while entertaining to look at, do nothing for the quality of the program delivery. I know if it isn't enjoyable to look at, sometimes it's not enjoyable to be there, but that's part of the point. We could challenge each individual case, each individual community, to add their special touch by giving them a feature opportunity within that building.

Project overruns are largely due to design and inadequate site evaluations. If we eliminate one of the causes, we could save ourselves a lot of valuable resources. Cost overruns typically result from quantity overruns, correcting designing errors and addressing unforeseeable conditions. Although elimination of all cost overruns is unrealistic and even probably cost prohibitive, we can

temper this by the efficiency of our design, improving negotiations, the discipline of scope management. When designers design to the maximum of our project budget, they know the government won't lose a school because of a 25 percent cost overrun. So, Mr. Speaker, who is putting pressure, market pressure, on who?

Keeping designs efficient and simple will certainly allow us to move forward. Mr. Speaker, we all know about the training costs of building designs and how they keep skyrocketing, but this would give us a solution to deal with that.

Mr. Speaker, at this time 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. Mr. Speaker, there's a solution to this obvious problem. We could engage our public, we could engage our professionals about true, real designs for our northern location. I'm tired about hearing about cost overruns, about one project delaying or possibly cancelling out another because of the skyrocketing costs. I think the future and expansive growth of our Northwest Territories requires smart design, and with community involvement we could solve this problem together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Land Use Plans And Community Assessments

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk again about the need for territorial-wide land use planning and the ability to do cumulative impact assessments. The people of the Deh Cho have embarked on a journey to finalize and negotiate their own land use plan for their region and they've clearly set the trail for the rest of us. I believe it's time for the territorial government, the aboriginal governments, and the regions, to seriously sit down and talk about how do we follow suit. We need regional land use plans, but we also need a broader land use plan for the territorial government. Let me give you an example of why I think that is the case.

Mr. Speaker, the folks from ATCO and Trans-Canada are tramping around the South Slave and Yellowknife talking about the projected, proposed hydro development on the Slave River. The old plan was for about 1,800 megawatts of power. They are talking about some type of run-of-the-river facility, but we know they are going to want to generate a maximum amount of power possible. As well, we know that there are discussions by these folks pushing the Green Corridors for Canada where they are talking about looking at trying to get 3,000 megawatts off the Mackenzie River at some point farther north.

We also know that site C of the Bennett Dam is being looked at for expansion and so is Dunvegan. We have the Taltson project and micro-hydro power projects as well. So, clearly, it is time for us, as a territorial government, to sit down with all the players to look at what is sustainable, what is the best way to advance on these projects if they even make sense, what is going to be the environmental impact and what is the benefit for people of

the Northwest Territories. So there is a need, clearly, for broad land use planning.

The Dehcho has shown us that, if you do it, it can be done. It takes work and we might have differences about some of the things that were done or being asked by the Dehcho, but the process makes eminent good sense for us as a territory, the South Slave, the Sahtu, the Tlicho and all the other regions. There is going to be a need for us to make those decisions to look at what can be developed, how fast, what areas should be protected, how do we protect the waterways and the wetlands.

Mr. Speaker, right now we don't have that capacity. As we look to the 16th Assembly, it is going to be clearly time for us to put that front and centre as part of our planning priorities. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Mother's Day Greetings

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Sunday, May 13, 2007, was a special occasion for all mothers across this beautiful country of ours. I am speaking of none other than Mother's Day. Unfortunately, some underlying could not spend time with our loved ones on this special occasion. At this time, I would like to extend a belated Mother's Day greeting to my wife, Lucille, in Tuktoyaktuk.

---Applause

She has been by my side since 1978 as a wife and dedicated mother to our two boys, Bertram and Darren, and now our granddaughter. Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate. My older son, Bertram, and daughter-in-law, Charlene and granddaughter Kaylee Ann Marie are living in Yellowknife. Yesterday, we had a special Mother's Day dinner and invited our mother-in-law, Monique Bishop, and some friends to celebrate this special occasion. Just having family members and friends residing in Yellowknife on special occasions such as Mother's Day takes away the loneliness of being away from our loved ones on special occasions.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs, we are committed to represent our constituency and it usually takes us away from our loved ones on special occasions such as Mother's Day. We know our loved ones will understand. We may be here in Yellowknife either for session or committee meetings, but our first thoughts will always be with our loved ones on special occasions.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like once again to say happy Mother's Day to my wife, Lucille, in Tuktoyaktuk for Sunday, May 13th, and to all the mothers across this vast territory of ours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Road Infrastructure For The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, I was thinking about the discussion that Members had last week in terms of the Deh Cho Bridge. Also, there were some discussions about the roads in the southern part of the Northwest Territories. I made several

calls to the people in the Sahtu. They were quite concerned as to not hearing any announcements from this government in terms of how to improve the winter road into the Sahtu region, especially questions around what was happening with the Bear River Bridge around Tulita hooking up to Norman Wells here.

Mr. Speaker, the people in the Sahtu have to pay the high cost of living. When the winter roads are open, they are only open for a few months. If we are very lucky and climate changes, it will shorten the winter months in terms of the people in the Sahtu getting out to do their shopping either in Fort Simpson, Hay River or Yellowknife here, or even in Edmonton; also for the people to take their families out on a vacation. As you know, taking families out flying is very expensive, so families that plan around that time can take their children out to the southern parts to have some vacation.

Mr. Speaker, the people in the Sahtu want to know when will this government make some announcements in their region to fix up the road. I was driving the road there for a couple of seasons now. When I drive the winter road, it has greatly improved, but we certainly need more work to get done on it. More safety measures should be taken to provide that for the people. Mr. Speaker, our region has been heavily into oil and gas exploration coming in and having a lot of interest in using our roads. More and more businesses are taking opportunities to use our winter roads. People in the Sahtu really want to know when this government is going to make any type of decision on the Mackenzie Valley highway. Is it just going to at least fix our roads here? Keep us in the light here and not shut us out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Deh Cho Bridge Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak more about the elusive Deh Cho Bridge project since this has become the basic coffee shop talk-of-the-day here in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, I can attest that much of this coffee shop talk is really not favourable towards the public's trust in our government, Mr. Speaker. Although the majority of the people in the NWT, more specifically in the North Slave region, myself included, Mr. Speaker, are supportive of a bridge across the Mackenzie River, many have expressed concerns of the costs to northerners associated with a project of this magnitude, but, more importantly, issues about the lack of accountability and transparency displayed by our government when the decision to move forward on this initiative was announced last week in our Premier's sessional statement.

Before the Premier's statement was made public, Mr. Speaker, no one on this side of the House, or in the public in general, was even aware that discussions and negotiations were ongoing let alone being finalized and guaranteed by the FMB, the bridge proponents and the contractor's negotiators in this whole project. This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. I feel that this government is setting a bad precedent and a practice of bad faith in our so-called consensus government to the electorate. All elected members and the public have the right to be fully engaged and informed of how much public money is going to be financing this once termed self-financing project. For how long will the public purse be opened to keep this

project viable and on track? These are only a couple of the very fundamental questions that are in our people's minds and this government has an obligation to answer all of these before the public is willing to give us their blessings for spending much needed dollars which could have been allocated which other much needed high priority items such as a courthouse, treatment centres, dementia centres and other important highway initiatives along the Mackenzie River Valley, the Tuk to Inuvik all-weather road, and even our highways in general are in dilapidated states all over. These are just to name a few, Mr. Speaker. I think this government's vision for residents of the NWT is to take responsibility. I would like to see this government take its own responsibility for the public's money, that people are confident in how we are spending it. The way it has been rolling out so far, that confidence is really waning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On NWT Housing Corporation Tours In The Tlicho Region

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation staff has visited our North Slave district. They looked firsthand at how our people are living in this housing. They also met with the chief of Behchoko. They have never visited our community before. So the community is very thankful that housing staff has visited our community. They said they were going to revisit the community again at the end of this month so that we can work together and make some changes. We would still like to hold them to this. (Translation ends)

Last month, the president of the Housing Corporation and two staff from the North Slave district visited the community of Behchoko to tour some of their most critical housing units and to meet with Chief Lafferty. They personally met and visited the homes of the community members and saw firsthand some of the poor housing conditions that these people were living in.

They listened to each individual's concern and discussed options available to solve these problems. The trip was an answer to the concerns I had outlined in the House earlier, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time that management has taken the time to come to a community and hear issues firsthand. The community was very appreciative. All of these years the community just wanted to be heard, Mr. Speaker, to be able to make their views clear about the reality of their lives. Those we visited felt that there was connection; a connection that has never been felt before. In the past, bureaucracy has always got in the way of dealing with human issues in a real human way, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is the first step in building a positive relationship between a particular department and the community of Behchoko and also the communities. Perhaps other departments might want to approach similar issues in a similar way.

While it takes time to build relationship, this is a very strong beginning, Mr. Speaker. At least now the department has shown it is willing to sit down and treat people with humanity and respect; a most welcome change from some of the past confrontations. There's a quote here from Mr. Henry Ford, "If everyone keeps

moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say the Housing Corporation will be returning to the community of Behchoko on May 31st to continue this process of communication. I'd like to commend the Minister of the Housing Corporation, the president and their staff for taking the initiative to open the lines of communication with my constituents. I hope other departments will take note. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

It's not too often that I get to recognize any of my constituents in the gallery. I'd like to draw your attention to Mr. Terry Rideout, a constituent of mine from Hay River, in the gallery today.

---Applause

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize young people in the gallery, young constituents from Range Lake. Some of them, I'm proud to say, I've known them since they were in kindergarten. They're Grade 6 Ms. Hans' class from the best school in Range Lake, Range Lake North School; the only school, Range Lake North School.

---Applause

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Dr. Andre Corriveau who's with us in the gallery today. He's the chief medical health officer and influential in the act coming up in this House later on, the Public Health Act. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize Terry Rideout as well, but also my very hard-working constituency assistant who usually doesn't have time to sit in the visitors' gallery but it's nice to see her there today, Wendy Morgan. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we've missed anyone today, welcome to the gallery. It's always nice to have an audience. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. Acknowledgements. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 67-15(6): Recreational Vehicle Site Development In Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Investment. It's a bit of a step-off from the statement

that he made advising the House of the new reservation system for campers and RVs coming to the NWT. I applaud that; I think it's a great way to show the NWT's on board with the modern tourism industry. We've been engaged in an exercise here in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, to create more space, more capacity for RVers who want to come up our newly paved highway and, hopefully, try out, in a few years, our newly built Deh Cho Bridge.

---Applause

So this is very much something that I've been looking forward to and I'm fully supportive of creating more capacity. However, there has been some conflict in the selection of the site by the Yellowknife Airport and adjacent to the Folk on the Rocks music festival site to build a 36-site park. It's got great amenities there but, Mr. Speaker, it also has some shortcomings, not the least of which is the concern about the impact on the festival and its location on the site near the noisy airport and its potential for expansion. Mr. Speaker, is the department going ahead with development of this site in light of these concerns?

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

Return To Question 67-15(6): Recreational Vehicle Site Development In Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member's concerns about the site that we've been looking at. He has, on the floor of this House, I think at least on one other occasion some months back, raised his concerns about the site, particularly that it was in the flight path. When we looked at options and land that was available to us, this site seemed to make a lot of sense and it was nicely situated close to Fred Henne Park on the shore of Long Lake; it looked like a very good place. We knew we'd have to do some work on the site, but we sat down to do some consultation with some of the potential stakeholders and have run into some difficulties; some concerns have been raised. So we're now at the point where we're going to look at some alternative sites as well, and it will be up for the next government to decide what the best site to move forward on is. There's no doubt, though, that we need adequate RV space in this city and if this isn't the site, then we have to sit down and get serious about finding a site soon. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 67-15(6): Recreational Vehicle Site Development In Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the concerns about the -- the folk festival aside -- one of the concerns, a business case concern was that at 36 sites and the lack of opportunity for expansion, this would really not be an adequate one for us. What are the projections and what would an ideal size be for a RV park here in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 67-15(6): Recreational Vehicle Site Development In Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to know exactly. We think that in future years we ball-parked the need at somewhere near 100 sites. We hope that that's not too optimistic. I guess we would start with the 30 or so sites and see where we are. That's the number

of sites that this site would accommodate, but in future we hope we can get to the point where the demand is about 100. Obviously the refinishing of this road coming north we think will improve the prospects for rubber-tire tourism, but we'll have to see. These are just projections and they are our best forecasts and guesses at this point. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 67-15(6): Recreational Vehicle Site Development In Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, does the department anticipate that this would be a territorially run RV site, as many others are in the NWT, or is the objective to find a private owner or private operator, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 67-15(6): Recreational Vehicle Site Development In Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I don't think any options have been ruled out. We'd be willing to sit down and talk to prospective stakeholders, prospective partners, about a model that would best solve this problem. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 67-15(6): Recreational Vehicle Site Development In Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you. My question is would the department continue with its strategy to fund the development, the capital cost, and then seek a suitable operator or owner? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 67-15(6): Recreational Vehicle Site Development In Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, that was the thought. Of course, we have a supplementary appropriation coming up soon. I can't pre-empt that, but presumably there will be some questions and some discussion around this budget item which has changed from the initial proposal and we can talk about that at that point. Thank you.

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

Question 68-15(6): Tire Recycling

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I talked about the expansion of the waste recovery program. We've seen the Beverage Container Program take off and it's doing very well. I'd like to ask the Minister of ENR what is the policy right now in the Northwest Territories with respect to tires? Is there a tax that's charged on tires at their point of purchase? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. MacLeod.

Return To Question 68-15(6): Tire Recycling

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe there is a tax, but I'd have to confirm that, Mr. Speaker. However, in the review of our Waste Reduction Recovery Program, tires and automobiles and

e-garbage and things of that nature are being undertaken as part of a review that we've started now and will be reporting on by this fall, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 68-15(6): Tire Recycling

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would that review include considering or contemplating a tax on tires purchased in the Northwest Territories and a rebate for tires when they are returned for recycling? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 68-15(6): Tire Recycling

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, tires have been raised as one of the considerations that we have to look at. We are also working with communities to look at mobile equipment. We recently had a number of workshops and had some companies from Alberta come and talk about being able to recycle some of the scrap metals. As part of those discussions, several communities got together and are exploring the different ways they can deal with the bulkier products in their landfill, such as tires and mobile tire shredding is something we are considering. We are also going to be working with communities to look to see if we can package it up so we can access some of the federal green funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 68-15(6): Tire Recycling

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that all sounds really good, but it sounds really vague and it sounds really far away and something that is not going to happen very soon. It is going to take in a whole wide range of products in recovery. It is really good to talk about it, but I want to talk about tires. It must be fairly simple. They are filling up our landfill as the days go ahead here. What do we need to do as a government to put legislation in place? What kind of framework needs to be in place to charge a levy on the tires when they are sold and to have a rebate to get them back to a central location for recycling? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 68-15(6): Tire Recycling

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there is some sense of urgency, but I wouldn't think of going ahead without consulting with the Members of this House and the communities.

---Laughter

There is a lot of interest. There are a lot of different issues that we have to deal with including what products we focus on next. There are plastic bags. There are tires. There are vehicles and all types of things that we recognize have to be dealt with. We are not going to be able to deal with all of them. We need the input from the communities and the general public. So we have to take the time. We have contracted Lutra Associates to do the research on the recovery and recycling. We are working with the communities to try to access some money up front to start looking at mobile equipment so we can reduce some of the pressures that are facing the

communities and their landfills. However, moving it any faster I think would be moving ahead faster than the communities would like. So we have to take the time to do it right, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 68-15(6): Tire Recycling

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess that is somewhat encouraging. They have hired Lutra Associates. They are going to do a study. Again, I think they are casting the net too wide. With so many priorities, there really is no priority. I would like to see a priority put on rubber tires. Even if you can't get it figured out right away what you are going to do with them after you collect them, at least get the tax and the rebate system put in place so we can at least start getting them to one place where we can do something useful with them. There are a lot of really good uses for shredded tires, tire chips. They can even be exported and sold to other places. So I would like to see some priority on the tire recycling. Could the Minister agree to that? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 68-15(6): Tire Recycling

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we will agree particularly with the Member's comments. I will forward them on to the committee for consideration. Thank you.

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

Question 69-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As Birthplace Of Ice Hockey In Canada

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of ITI is aware, I have been working hard with other Members, especially with the community of Deline in the Sahtu, in terms of having Deline being recognized as the birthplace of ice hockey in Canada. I wanted to ask the Minister of ITI what type of exposure is he working on in terms of getting this recognition as a significant historical event in Canada, especially for ice hockey? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 69-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As Birthplace Of Ice Hockey In Canada

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to commend the Member for his hard work on this initiative.

---Applause

He has been encouraging this government to do some work to officially recognize Deline as the birthplace of hockey. I am happy to say that an event has come up in London for Canada Day it will be participating in. The GNWT, through my department, is supporting NWT Tourism in bringing over a ball hockey team from Deline. We will put on a bit of a show and an exhibition of their incredible hockey ability. I understand the Member himself will be suited up and put a number of balls in the net, presumably, and make us look good.

Mr. Speaker, we think that this is an excellent opportunity for us to lever some publicity. There will be a lot of people in attendance. It is a great way to recognize Deline. I understand that there is going to be some hand games demonstration, some other cultural promotion. After all, Mr. Speaker, we are really hoping to use this opportunity to create some awareness around Deline, the Northwest Territories, and see if we can't get some tourists to come back here and visit us. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 69-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As Birthplace Of Ice Hockey In Canada

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister in his confidence in hoping that I will put a bunch of balls in the net there in London, England. How important is this event here? I know the importance of Sir John Franklin, because he came from England, in terms of his name and his contributions to some of the historical events that happened in this world here. What role in terms of our team going over there from Deline, especially in the role of tourism, how important is the role of tourism for the people in London to come over here and come and visit Canada and especially visit the birthplace of ice hockey started by one of their own people from England?

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

Further Return To Question 69-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As Birthplace Of Ice Hockey In Canada

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very important for us. When we look at our tourism numbers overall, we break them down by country of origin. Number one, in terms of the most frequent visitors, are Americans, but close behind that, Mr. Speaker, are those from the United Kingdom. So we think there is a great potential for growth. We would like to get more people from England, from the United Kingdom, to come over. This is an excellent opportunity for us to do this. This is a real unique event that we are putting on. All the provinces and territories, Mr. Speaker, will be present at those events in London at Trafalgar Square. We think we have a unique hook here. We are going to try to take full advantage of that. I know the Member, as well as myself, have been working to try to make sure we can get some GNWT presence, potentially in the person of the Premier. We will see if his schedule will allow for it, but we would like to raise this up, ratchet it up to profile. I think that would be a way for us to do that. We are trying to make this a big event and are contributing monies to NWT Tourism to make it successful. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 69-15(6): Recognition Of Deline As Birthplace Of Ice Hockey In Canada

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Deline team will win the Franklin Cup in London, England. Does the Minister think that Ottawa will win the Stanley Cup?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: That's asking the Minister's opinion. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 70-15(6): 911 Emergency Telephone Response Service

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs some questions regarding the 911 service. As I mentioned in my Member's statement, six years ago, in 2001, the chief coroner of the Northwest Territories recommended that MACA work with the RCMP and the City of Yellowknife to establish a 911 service. The first year was to be in Yellowknife and then that service was to be expanded out to other communities in the Northwest Territories. Why is it six years later? What has happened? Why aren't we at a stage where we can start moving 911 outside of Yellowknife? Instead, we are standing here today questioning why there isn't even a 911 service in Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 70-15(6): 911 Emergency Telephone Response Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories, through MACA and Public Works and Services, along with the RCMP and the city have looked at the issue. The biggest barrier for going forward right now is the lack of communication infrastructure in our communities. I guess following that, the big barrier is the cost of implementing such a service. We are looking at roughly \$26 million or more to have it within the Northwest Territories and to have the service in all the communities. That is something that we are facing, are the resources required to implement such a service.

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

Supplementary To Question 70-15(6): 911 Emergency Telephone Response Service

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, \$26 million to look at a 911 service territory-wide is a tremendous amount of money, but given the fact that 911 is the North American standard for emergency numbers and it is something that children who live in the Northwest Territories are much more likely to remember when faced with an emergency, why aren't we looking at establishing this service in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith to start with and what would that cost? Has the Minister got that information? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 70-15(6): 911 Emergency Telephone Response Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the detail and the cost for breaking it out per community. We could, I guess, look at that. There's a number of things that would come forward as one-time costs from the RCMP and also NorthwesTel or the provider and others. So we'd have to sit down and break all those numbers out. We haven't looked at specifically providing it for one community. There's still a cost factor. In fact, Yellowknife has made application to CRTC for some money and were turned down as this didn't meet the program criteria. If there's an interest, we certainly can sit down and review what the options are. But at this point, we don't have the resources to implement such a service across the Territories.

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

Supplementary To Question 70-15(6): 911 Emergency Telephone Response Service

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I feel quite strongly that the Government of the Northwest Territories has an obligation to the people it represents to implement such a service and to work with the stakeholders to ensure that there's a 911 service. If that starts out in Yellowknife and expands to Hay River and Fort Smith, so be it. Then we can expand it later on. I'd like to ask the Minister, and I wasn't overly impressed with the last answer, but what are the next steps to move this forward, and where does the responsibility lie to move this issue forward to the next level so that we can get this service up and running? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 70-15(6): 911 Emergency Telephone Response Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what I have to do to impress the Member.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, if the Member's referring to the city of Yellowknife moving forward, that's something that's their decision. We certainly can work with them to implement such a service and try to locate some resources to help them along. However, at the cost factor or the estimates that are provided to us, it's not something we can resource at this point. Communications is something we'd like to have more discussion on with other departments, Public Works and Services, regarding which step do you take first. Do we start putting the facilities in the communities so that we can have adequate facilities so that we can start considering this, or do we focus on Yellowknife first and then worry about the other communities later? I think that's something we're going to have to decide, Mr. Speaker, and we'll have to have further debate and discussion on that with the other partners in this committee. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 70-15(6): 911 Emergency Telephone Response Service

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm always impressed with the Minister's responses, especially when we're talking about something as important as this. I think it's important that it starts somewhere. I hear the Minister and I hear the Minister say communities and establishing it throughout the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, \$26 million, that's not going to happen right away. What needs to happen right away is this service needs to get started in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith just for starters. I'd like the Minister to make a commitment today to get his officials at MACA to work with the stakeholders to get this key initiative off the ground. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 70-15(6): 911 Emergency Telephone Response Service

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will continue to pursue this. It's not something that we have as a high priority right now. There is still a lot of communication equipment and communication issues

in our communities that we could focus on. There's the issue of self-service, and self-service along the highway would maybe make more sense right now than implementing a huge, costly 911 service that is only going to serve a small part of the whole Northwest Territories. It's something we'd have to sit down and talk with the other departments and the other agencies, but we'll certainly follow up as the Member has requested. Thank you.

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

Question 71-15(6): Standard Designs For Government Building Infrastructure

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about how and why sustainable and standard design for public infrastructure could help everyone by delivering better products at lower costs. Mr. Speaker, whether it's the designers, the engineers, the community, even government officials and MLAs, I mean, everyone wants the design to the maximum dollars put into the budget and they seem to always want more. One more thing, Mr. Speaker, always wants overtake needs. Has the Minister of Public Works and Services ever considered adopting a template format for construction of public buildings with a modular format so that they can easily be expanded to accommodate future needs of public infrastructure and community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 71-15(6): Standard Designs For Government Building Infrastructure

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been working with departments and also we are looking at the whole energy conservation design of public infrastructure in regards to making sure that we do bring down the cost, but more importantly that we do have something that's affordable and meets our budget amounts. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 71-15(6): Standard Designs For Government Building Infrastructure

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister today commit in this House that he would go out to some type of public consultation to engage our engineers and architects on coming up with sustainable design principles for all our public government infrastructures so the percentage of cost overruns are minimized? For a note to that, Alaska has 15 percent as an acceptable overrun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 71-15(6): Standard Designs For Government Building Infrastructure

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have an interdepartmental committee that's looking at the whole area of infrastructure. Again, this could be one of the issues that they look at. Again, we are trying to ensure that we find ways not only to deliver our existing infrastructure, but more importantly the infrastructure going forward. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 71-15(6): Standard Designs For Government Building Infrastructure

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I think I heard the Minister say yes, but I'll let him re-clarify. Mr. Speaker, specifically to schools, health clinics, and seniors' facilities, has the department ever done a historical cost overrun overview by doing a 360 degree design evaluation to ensure that bad designs are re-evaluated and that they haven't turned into maintenance nightmares? Further, are we building our buildings for the 1,500-year life expectancy, or are we just designing them to be maintained for the rest of their life? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 71-15(6): Standard Designs For Government Building Infrastructure

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do design and build to ensure that the capital investment that we are making is there for the long term. Again, we are ensuring that the quality of that infrastructure is going to be able to maintain itself over 30 to 40 years. So again, it is a part of the design, construct, and more importantly ensuring the energy conservation and the style that we use is cost efficient. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 71-15(6): Standard Designs For Government Building Infrastructure

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, does the Minister of Public Works and Services monitor the percentage difference between contract bids and contract payments and, if so, what is an acceptable percentage if things are over? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 71-15(6): Standard Designs For Government Building Infrastructure

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to the cost of construction, in most cases we have a rough estimate of what we expect the price to come in on. Again, we do look at what else is happening in other areas, what's in general contracting area, what's happening in the industry, so again we do try to ensure that we do come up with a number that meets our requirements, but more importantly that we can afford to build at that cost and not to build something that's extreme where we cannot afford it. Thank you.

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

Question 72-15(6): Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home In Behchoko

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Housing Corporation regarding the seniors' home in Behchoko. This building has been there since 1986. It's been there for many years now. When I went to visit there yesterday, the ceiling was dripping with water. You can see the water dripping onto the floors. I would like to know when they may replace the building. I asked this question before. I'm going to ask...(Translation ends)

In March, I spoke to the honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation regarding this government's

commitment to repair or replace Jimmy Erasmus Seniors Home in Behchoko. Further to this, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister what progress has been made since that session and the subsequent visits by the president of the Housing Corporation to the community of Behchoko. Mahsi.

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

Return To Question 72-15(6): Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home In Behchoko

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing Corporation has been working on this issue for some time. We have a consultant who did a report. The Housing Corporation received a copy of that report on April 27th and are now taking a look at it. As I had said to the Member before, we plan to have the final report available by June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 72-15(6): Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home In Behchoko

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in March, the Minister committed to working on seven major areas of deficiencies as a short-term solution that were found in the seniors' home. Has the department or can the Minister provide an update on the report? I realize it's coming in June, but what has the department done to accomplish the deficiencies? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 72-15(6): Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home In Behchoko

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the report deals primarily with those seven areas of deficiencies. The recommendation in the draft report is that the building be replaced, but that in the meantime we do some renovation to last us five years until we get a new building. There's concerns with the building in the areas -- I won't go through all those seven areas -- but there's also concerns with the site that it allows for too much accumulation of water and is creating problems for us. So, Mr. Speaker, the draft recommendation right now is to do the repairs. We will do them by the Housing Corporation and then plan for a replacement facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 72-15(6): Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home In Behchoko

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that was a short-term solution that we've just highlighted. Just moving on to a long-term solution, also in March the Minister expressed his concerns over the condition of the facility, as he just touched on as well, and expressed the need for immediate action on the situation. The long-term solution is to be found in a report to be conducted in a few months. In the past few months. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister please disclose the results and long-term solutions to be taken as a result of this report? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 72-15(6): Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home In Behchoko

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to go ahead with the short-term repairs to deal with the interim problems. Those are things ranging from water under the crawlspace, there was a sewage spill, there's mould in some units, the roof leaking, the deterioration on some of the plumbing lines. Those are things that we're going to repair in the short term. But right now, the consultant's recommendation is to replace the facility, and our people in the Housing Corporation agree with that recommendation. So I fully expect that when the final report comes out, that will be the direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 72-15(6): Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home In Behchoko

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the department's really focussing on the seniors' home that's in poor condition right now and the plan to replace that building within five years. But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, the immediate plan is a short-term plan. When is the repair going to be initiated? Because we're dealing with this issue now. I'm getting so many calls from the communities, especially the elders. When is it going to be happening? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 72-15(6): Jimmy Erasmus Senior Home In Behchoko

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't have a fixed schedule for it, but I can assure the Member that this summer we will do the essential repairs. I don't know the exact schedule of which will be done where, but some things like leaking roofs and standing water under the buildings, those are things we have to fix right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 73-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week there was a good debate on discussion regarding the Premier's sessional statement. When he said the government plans to move forward with the Mackenzie bridge over the Deh Cho without the federal funding, I understand, Mr. Speaker, that there's money identified under the federal government under P3, but that's still not determined how that's going to be spent.

Mr. Speaker, on page 175 of the unedited transcript on May 9th the Premier said, and I quote, "there is also extra capital money, \$25 million a year, in there. We don't intend to use big chunks of that money for this bridge." I have a question for the Premier, Mr. Speaker, is that, can he explain what he means by not using big chunks of that money? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 73-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bridge, Deh Cho Bridge, is being built as a P3 project, private-public partnership. So in that arrangement, the Bridge Corporation made up of the combined community alliance will be the owner of the bridge initially. They are

the ones who will borrow the money to build the bridge and it'll be financed over 35 or so years. So the GNWT will not be using capital money for this project. The \$25 million the Member refers to is money that is identified in the federal budget. It's \$25 million a year for seven years for trades-related infrastructure. We don't have exact definitions from the federal government what that means. We have been told, though, that they're still working on the guidelines. At this point, it is not our intention to use capital money for the Deh Cho Bridge at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 73-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my follow-up then is about, in the unedited transcripts, Mr. Speaker, he's indicated that, again, I'll say it one more time, "there is also extra capital money, \$25 million a year in there. We don't intend to use big chunks for that money." I think I'd like to ask him, like, in my interpretation of that, Mr. Speaker, is that the money there for infrastructure funding, that somehow that the government will use some of that money for part of this project? Can he explain that to me whether or not that's what he intended to imply? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 73-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I said, we don't have guidelines for that infrastructure money. We don't know exactly what the federal government means by trades-related initiatives. At this point, as I say, we don't intend to use capital money for the Deh Cho Bridge. The plan right now is one that the Department of Transportation and the Combined Community Alliance and the proposed contractor can do it as a P3 project without using capital money. So, Mr. Speaker, at this point I'd have to say that, without knowing the guidelines for the \$25 million a year for seven years, that we don't plan on using any of it because we don't know what it's going to be, exactly what it's going to be defined for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 74-15(6): Policing Resources Available To Address Criminal Activity In Downtown Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Justice and it's in follow up to the Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, we've had many debates on this topic and the most recent being the time in the last budget session when the Minister and I had some exchanges about what we could do to maximize the RCMP resources so that as many of the boots as possible are on the street. So in that vein, I'd like to know if the Minister has done, or is willing to do, a comprehensive review of the work that the RCMP does and see what we can do to streamline, to lighten their burden of non sort of street work, because I believe if the Minister finds and looks hard enough, there's work that the GNWT department can do, for example. I'm not saying the GNWT could do that without resources either, but it's more doable for us to put more resources in GNWT to take some burden off the RCMP so that we have the

RCMP officers on the ground, on the streets in Yellowknife and in communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 74-15(6): Policing Resources Available To Address Criminal Activity In Downtown Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I think there are things that we can do as a government to assist the RCMP and there are a number of things that we have been involved in doing. One that I would point to is the use of our officers at our corrections facilities to escort prisoners as compared to asking uniformed RCMP officers to do this. So we've come up with an arrangement that allows the RCMP officers to stay on the ground, as the Member has indicated, in the community and not have to do this escort of prisoners function.

The RCMP have civilian staff who handle most of the clerical work and they have RCMP uniformed staff who, for the most part, don't do that type of work, although there is some paperwork involved. There's a committee that's been struck. Our government sits on that to look at how we can work on some efficiencies. I think we all share the Member's point or goal that we want the RCMP as much as possible doing police work on the streets. Of course, we know that uniformed members will end up taking victim statements, witness statements, those kinds of things. Paperwork, Mr. Speaker. But as much as possible, it's to all of our benefit that we minimize the amount of paperwork that they're doing. We are participating in that committee and I hope that we'll have some good results. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 74-15(6): Policing Resources Available To Address Criminal Activity In Downtown Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not quite clear on what the mandate and the time frame of this committee is. I believe this issue requires a real focus and serious attention. One of the examples I've heard is that RCMP in uniform actually looks after the travelling schedule for witnesses. They organize the travelling schedules and they call court services and court services approves this. I think that is one example where we could use other resources than RCMP who are trained to be on the street, to be seen and do the work. So I'd like to ask the Minister more specific questions. What is exactly this committee work, how much mandate is that, who are the partners in that, and what are the terms of reference? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. About three or four questions there. Mr. Bell, I'll allow you to answer one or all of them.

Further Return To Question 74-15(6): Policing Resources Available To Address Criminal Activity In Downtown Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly inquire as to the suggestion that it's uniformed, I believe that the suggestion is that it's uniformed police officers who are handling travel arrangements for witnesses. I think it's probably clerical staff at the RCMP, but I could be wrong and I'll certainly check into that. If that is the case, that would be an example, I would agree. Certainly there's got to be a better way for us to utilize our

uniformed staff. So on this committee, we participate with the RCMP. One of the major initiatives, as I've indicated, was to find a way to handle prisoner transport more efficiently. I know the RCMP have been very supportive of that. This is an ongoing committee. We meet frequently, apparently, and sit down and discuss ways to rationalize and improve service, Mr. Speaker. So I can get some of the last couple of meetings, get some notes, and would certainly be willing to share those with the Member or with all Members so that Members can see the kinds of issues we're talking about at that committee level. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 74-15(6): Policing Resources Available To Address Criminal Activity In Downtown Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP not doing the escorting of prisoners and the correction officers taking over that, that is so yesterday's news. I'd really appreciate it if the Minister doesn't keep repeating that. I think that just highlights one of the many things, I'm sure, I don't know, the Minister doesn't know, we're not running the RCMP, we're not on the street, so can I ask the Minister to take this issue more seriously and answer specifically, would the department undertake a formal comprehensive review on the work of RCMP with the goal to minimize their work and maximizing their time on the streets? Would the Minister commit to that, please? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 74-15(6): Policing Resources Available To Address Criminal Activity In Downtown Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to be conscious of not sucking up a bunch of RCMP time in an exercise that will bear little fruit. I'd be willing to sit down and talk with the new commanding officer, ask him if he feels there's some merit in pursuing a formal committee with a formalized mandate and setting up some sort of a structure. If he thinks that that can assist the RCMP in improving their efficiency, then I'm more than prepared to champion that cause. But that's what I would propose at this point. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 74-15(6): Policing Resources Available To Address Criminal Activity In Downtown Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I've heard a yes or no commitment from him, Mr. Speaker. We have a new change of commanding officer; this is a good time to do it. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm telling you I have information that even though on the books it shows that we have 42 RCMP officers, there are times when we only have two pairs of boots on the street. We need to do something, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, would he undertake to do a formal review? I'm not trying to suck up the time of the RCMP. I'm trying to give them more time. So Mr. Speaker, would he just say yes to this commitment and maybe work with the Social Programs committee, work on the terms of reference? We need to get more serious about this. It's not a, you know, willy-nilly, you know, leisurely activity here. We need to get boots on the ground. So could the Minister just say yes and we'll work from that? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 74-15(6): Policing Resources Available To Address Criminal Activity In Downtown Yellowknife

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I'm more than prepared to come and talk to the Social Programs committee about such an initiative, but I am concerned that we set up some sort of paper shuffling exercise involving the RCMP, a long, drawn out process that really does nothing, Mr. Speaker. I think we all share the same thoughts, and that is to get as many RCMP officers on the ground and make sure their time isn't spent frivolously doing unnecessary paperwork.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would say that I haven't heard from the RCMP this concern. They have a number of opportunities to bring this to my attention. We meet very frequently. This is not something that has been brought to my attention in terms of two people left in the community to police an entire community the size of Yellowknife. That's never been raised with me, Mr. Speaker. But I'll certainly sit down with Social Programs, sit down with the new commanding officer, and we can talk about what might have some merit. Thank you.

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

Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up with the Member's statement on the Deh Cho Bridge project. I just have some questions for the honourable Premier, Mr. Handley, I think whose court that this bridge is in right now. I just want to talk about some cost recovery initiatives that this government could probably give the green light to and probably should seriously consider giving the green light to since the Deh Cho Bridge sounds like it's a go ahead anyway. The \$6 a ton fee that the Premier was talking about last week that the rates plus the cost of living that's going to be charged to haulers on that bridge project, I want to ask the Premier if when the bridge is built in 2010, say optimistically, but it could be built a little later, but hopefully around 2010-2011, what that rate, that \$6 rate is going to be at then. Is it still going to be at \$6 or are we looking at \$10 per ton then and if it is at \$10 per ton, what is going to stop these private haulers, like the fuel haulers, from building their own ice bridge and just going around the Deh Cho Bridge altogether on an ice road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll answer briefly. These questions are more appropriate for the Minister of Transportation. The toll is not likely going to be \$10. My estimate, I believe, is it would roughly be \$6.50 if we apply the inflation factor to the numbers we had when they were first worked out at \$6. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I remember correctly, too, that \$6 is based on a \$60 million project and not 130 or 150 million dollar project. So that just changes everything drastically. I'm just looking at the

\$2 million over and above the already \$2 million that we pay for ferry and ice road operations. So that looks like we're paying out about \$4 million per year out of our government revenues, taxpayers' money, I guess, to finance the Bridge Corporation. I want to ask the Minister, if we are so hard on seeing this bridge project go through and we give the green light automatically or with not much public input, why can't we give a green light on a bridge reserve fund today so we have a reserve sitting there in 2010-2011 with maybe \$10 million that we could put right down on the bridge right off the get go? Can we get a reserve fund established? Get a toll on the ferry starting today, Mr. Speaker. Why isn't that an option, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll refer this question to the Minister of Transportation. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think, if I understand the question correctly, the Member's after can we realize some savings and create a fund to pay for the bridge. Fifty percent of the costs that we're talking about for operating a new bridge is already being spent right now as we operate our ferry and ice bridge there, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the \$6 per ton for a truck, that is a new figure that we have been using. That is something that the way it is right now in the financial model, is to become effective the day the bridge starts operating. There is an inflationary factor. If the pressures are there, it may be more than \$6 when the bridge opens, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't get any indication of why we are not charging a toll fee on tonnage in the operations of the ferry or even the operations of the highway. I know there is a fixed rate at the weigh scales that companies pay, but right now, before we hit them with the \$6.50 in 2010 or \$10 or whatever it may be when the bridge finally opens its gates, why can't we just start charging them a toll right now? Then when it comes time to charge them a toll when the bridge is open, they won't take it so harshly and won't try to think of alternatives to work around it. Why can't we do that today? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, the Member has a good question and the way that the Deh Cho Bridge Act is set up, it has nothing to do with our current operations. If the Member is looking at a government implementing a toll on our existing ferry systems, we will have to look at different legislation to do that, Mr. Speaker. The decision was made many years

ago when we created our ferry system, is for easy, free access for the North and all northerners. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. A short supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, if we need some more marine transportation legislation, fine, let's just forget about the toll on the ferry. Let's have a toll on our highway system. How about that? Why don't we put a toll fee right at the weigh scales in Enterprise where the trucks come in? Why can't they pay a toll fee right there? I don't see that charging them \$10 extra is going to make any big difference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have just been advised that a highway tax was severely defeated a term ago. I don't think we want to go there. I think the Member's intention is good in bringing forward that suggestion of creating the tolls and phase it in right now but, legislatively, we are just in no position to do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't see any legislation being a big roadblock to implementing any kind of toll fee on our highway system which really takes a lot of wear and tear over one year. We are just dishing out millions and millions of dollars to keep the highway open free of charge. I know that the mines charge companies roughly about \$100,000 a year to use their ice roads. We don't charge anybody any toll fee to use our ice bridges or any bridges that we have up and down the Mackenzie Valley, so why don't we consider something like that? If we want to be smart businesspeople here, let's act like businesspeople here and treat our customers like everybody else treats them. If they have money to spend, why don't we get some of it? By that, I mean why can't we put in some kind of a bridge reserve fund starting soon so...

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

Further Return To Question 75-15(6): Deh Cho Bridge Project

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In many of the jurisdictions across Canada, that is what in effect they do for reconstruction, rebuilding the highways, their bridges. They do slow the traffic down and provide tolls. They then recover some costs for those repairs because it is the travelling public that use it. But here in the North, our traffic volume just cannot sustain something like that, especially the smaller vehicles. Once again, we have to introduce new legislation to collect tolls. If that is something the Member wants to put forward and that is something the public wants, they are going to have to let the government know and we can pursue that kind of legislation. But up to now, Mr. Speaker, we are not considering any tolls for the travelling public on ferries or highways at this time. Mahsi.

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

Question 76-15(6): Adjustments To Student Financial Assistance Rates

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a single student going to school gets \$700. If you go to school in Lethbridge, you get \$700. If you go to school in Inuvik, you get \$700. The cost of living, Mr. Speaker, between Lethbridge and Inuvik, I am sure is just a little bit different, slightly different. You would need at least \$1,260 to offset the difference in the cost. And heaven forbid if you are a young mother from one of the communities with two kids, goes into Inuvik, wants to take nursing access so you can make a better life. Heaven forbid. It is difficult on these people that try to attend school. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment if the department has any plans to review and adjust the SFA to reflect the high cost of living? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 76-15(6): Adjustments To Student Financial Assistance Rates

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Student Financial Assistance Program is constantly under review. We have made revisions to the program in the past few years. We are planning further revisions to the program in time for this fall's semester. What the Member is talking about in terms of a difference in the cost of living based on the different costs in the Northwest Territories is another area that we are looking at. We probably are not going to get that one done this year, but we are taking a look at it because we have, Mr. Speaker, a significant investment in our Aurora College campuses. We want to make sure that we are encouraging northern students to attend college in the North. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 76-15(6): Adjustments To Student Financial Assistance Rates

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister makes a good point as we want to keep our students going to school in the North, but the high cost of living...It only makes sense that you may want to go to school south. Mr. Speaker, they are doing an income support redesign to reflect the high cost of living in some of the communities. Will they do the same thing with the Student Financial Assistance Program and have it implemented this fall? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 76-15(6): Adjustments To Student Financial Assistance Rates

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, the repayable loan limit for student financial assistance is \$1,100 a month. By this fall, that will be increased to \$1,400 a month. So there will be a change. There will be needs assessed. So depending on the need, if students need it, that money will be available. We are also going to be increasing the lifetime limit for loans to ensure that northern students don't run up against that limit. Mr. Speaker, the kind of change, that is the indexing, that the Member is asking about, we have just

started the research on that right now. We know that, for instance, British Columbia does do some limited indexing. We are taking a look at how they do their program to try and see if we can find a way to make it work here in the North.

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

Supplementary To Question 76-15(6): Adjustments To Student Financial Assistance Rates

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have done some researching, too. Students say it does cost less to go to school south than it does in Inuvik. That is all the research you need, is what they tell us and that is what we should be listening to. The \$1,925 per semester, is that figure also going to be adjusted when they redo their rates? The cost of tuition in some of the institutions is going up but I don't know if our rates have increased at all, so I would like to ask the Minister if that cost will be increasing also. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 76-15(6): Adjustments To Student Financial Assistance Rates

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tuition and the book allowance were both increased within the last two years. Right now, the tuition costs easily cover the amount of tuition that is charged by the college at all the campuses here in the Northwest Territories based on the programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 77-15(6): Air Conditioning For The Tulita Health Centre

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It has to do with the health centres in the Sahtu, particularly the one in Tulita where it is lacking air conditioning. I understand from last year speaking to the community that it was unbearable for some of the patients, especially the elders to sit and visit the health centres and be treated at the same time, sit there while the centre is boiling, I guess, and not being safe to have the services in our community. Is the Minister aware of these health conditions and these working conditions in the Tulita Health Centre?

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

Return To Question 77-15(6): Air Conditioning For The Tulita Health Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are aware of issues in our health centres across the Territories. There are a number of facilities that do not have air conditioning in them for the summer months. Normally, this area would be looked at through our small capital program. We are hoping to have that improved throughout this year. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 77-15(6): Air Conditioning For The Tulita Health Centre

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to shape the Minister's response to this issue, some of

these areas are similar to other communities that do not have RCMP in their communities. They don't have air conditioners in some of these small health centres. In terms of this simple situation here to be resolved for people in the small communities, this is fixable. It is reasonable. It is also doable. It is a crying shame that, in this day and age, these health centres do not have air conditioners, Mr. Speaker. What does the Minister plan to do to improve the situation like this in the health centre in Tulita?

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

Further Return To Question 77-15(6): Air Conditioning For The Tulita Health Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we have done, as we go through our capital planning program, is we, through the small capital needs assessment, put our request in for money for health centres throughout the territory that don't have this type of equipment. We try to make it through that avenue to have equipment installed as the money becomes available. That is the process we are using this year, as well. We have made requests through the small capital needs assessment area. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 77-15(6): Air Conditioning For The Tulita Health Centre

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I said it before and I will say it again, people in my region are being denied the basic standards in some of our facilities, some of these facilities that other regions have enjoyed and take for granted. Mr. Speaker, summer is coming close. It is just around the corner. I ask if the Minister will commit to work with the Sahtu health board to see that this installation of air conditioning be installed in the Tulita Health Centre.

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

Further Return To Question 77-15(6): Air Conditioning For The Tulita Health Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me try to be a little clearer here. The fact is, we have, as a department, agreed with the needs of the communities. We have put our requests in through the system to try to get additional monies to cover off this area. Hopefully, that need will be met this upcoming season. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 77-15(6): Air Conditioning For The Tulita Health Centre

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I would ask if the Minister would work closely with the Sahtu health board in terms of seeing some of these conditions being met in some of the communities who do not have these air conditioners. It is a basic service for health centres. You can go ahead with the bridge. Certainly, we can go ahead with putting air conditioners in some of our communities. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 77-15(6): Air Conditioning For The Tulita Health Centre

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we will work with the Sahtu Health and

Social Services Authority in the air conditioning area, but we have to look at the needs across the board; in fact, all of our health centres throughout the territory. As I stated earlier, the department has put the request in in trying to get more revenue so that we can deal with this area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Time for question period has expired. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. Petitions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 11: PETITIONS

Petition 1-15(6): Criminal Records Checks

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to table a petition signed by Hay River residents requesting this government to implement criminal record checks. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Petitions. Reports of standing and special committees. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 24-15(6): Communities And Diamonds: 2006 Annual Report Of The GNWT Under The BHP Billiton, Diavik And De Beers Socio-Economic Agreements

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have several documents to table. I wish to table the following document entitled Communities and Diamonds: 2006 Annual Report of the GNWT under the BHP Billiton, Diavik and De Beers Socio-economic Agreements.

Tabled Document 25-15(6): Diavik Communities Advisory Board Annual Report 2004-05

As well, I would like to table the document entitled Diavik Communities Advisory Board Annual Report 2004-05.

Tabled Document 26-15(6): GNWT Response To Recommendations From The Diavik Communities Advisory Board In Its 2004-05 Annual Report

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I wish to table the document entitled GNWT Response to Recommendations from the Diavik Communities Advisory Board in its 2004-05 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 6-15(6): Extended Adjournment Of The House To August 15, 2007

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, May 16, 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 May 17, 2007, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, August 15, 2007; and further, at any time prior to August 15, 2007, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker gives notice thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated

and such notice and shall transact its business as is and has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Motions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 17: MOTIONS

Motion 5-15(6): Criminal Records Check, Carried

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, WHEREAS many Northwest Territories children have suffered and continue to suffer as a result of sexual abuse perpetrated by persons in positions of trust;

AND WHEREAS many survivors of sexual abuse feel betrayed by a system which has failed to protect them or to demonstrate that it cares;

AND WHEREAS recent events in the community of Hay River have clearly demonstrated the vulnerability of our children to sexual predators;

AND WHEREAS the technology and databases are in place to allow for the identification and monitoring of past offenders;

AND WHEREAS community and territorial leaders have a responsibility to ensure policies and checks are in place to minimize the risk of abuse to our children;

AND WHEREAS many government employees have routine contact with children either in their workplace or in the course of carrying out work in people's homes;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly strongly urges the Government of the Northwest Territories to implement criminal records checks at least every year for all public service employees who have contact with children, youth and other vulnerable persons;

AND FURTHER that the government direct all its boards and agencies to adopt policies and criminal records checks of all volunteers who have contact with children, youth and other vulnerable persons;

AND FURTHERMORE that the government make it a condition of all contribution agreements that the recipient organization implement criminal records checks for their staff and volunteers who have contact with children, youth and other vulnerable persons;

AND FURTHERMORE that this Legislative Assembly strongly urges the private and non-governmental sectors to adopt similar criminal records check procedures for their staff and volunteers.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mr. Terry Rideout from Hay River in being instrumental in this motion coming forward to the House and for all the work that he has done in bringing attention to this very important matter.

Mr. Speaker, as legislators, we are obligated to do everything we can in our power to protect children, youth and vulnerable persons. Absolutely, this motion will not

cover all aspects of where people may be at risk. This will catch people who have come in contact with the law already. Certainly, there is a lot of abuse taking place in our communities right now by persons where it is not reported and where these people have not been brought to justice. So this is one effort. This is one piece in an effort that we need to make to ensure that our children are safe and that they are protected.

Some folks may say that this type of a criminal records check for employees and volunteers, that this somehow might create some kind of offence that might discourage people from volunteering in our communities. But, Mr. Speaker, I submit that if you weigh the inconvenience for the potential offence of this against the possibility of even one instance of a child being hurt by a sexual predator, I would say that we should proceed with this and not worry about any of those kinds of negative implications or backlash to this. People need to understand that our intentions are good and are motivated by good and valid reasons when we speak in support of this motion.

We need to make criminal records checks a normal course of action so that when people are entering into positions where they are employed or they are volunteers, this becomes a well accepted, normal course of action that they would be called upon to agree to a criminal records check.

With that, Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to thank Mr. Rideout and I would say all these voting in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Mrs. Groenewegen for bringing this forward. I am in full support of it. That is why I asked her if I could second this motion. To me, this motion really speaks to the principle of the people we take care of. That would be our youth, our children, the people at risk. They could be our seniors. They could be anyone.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are duty bound as Members here to find ways and take every step that we consider reasonably possible to protect those from the predators that prey upon those people at risk I talked about earlier. Mrs. Groenewegen talked about the small amount of inconvenience. I don't think it is an inconvenience to ask people who put themselves in positions of trust and we don't know what happens. This is just one more element to ensure that we can trust people and nothing, or at least we can try to make sure nothing, happens.

Mr. Speaker, recently, in the last couple of years, the federal government put their sexual offender registry into force. Now, if you had been charged with a sexual offence after that period once it had come into force, you are on that registry. But this not only looks at those people; it looks at everybody else who was charged with some type of sexual offence beforehand and any other type of offence that may be relevant to be made as notice to that employer or volunteer agency. So this is almost like this motion sets forward a method or process to help find gaps in the system because predators are a cunning bunch. They will find ways to look for opportunities. That makes our job even tougher here at this Legislative Assembly to ensure that we close those doors and we stop that access. If this is just a small step in the right direction, I think it is certainly the most reasonable step and it is certainly not an onerous process to ask someone

to fill out a criminal records check. Therefore, everyone, the parents dropping their kids off, maybe their parents who are seniors off in facilities, or whatever the case may be, it gives them the extra little bit of comfort to know that that facility is being run properly and taking care of their loved ones.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting this motion. I want to thank the Member for bringing it forward. I also want to thank her guest here in our gallery today for helping initiate some of this process. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, will support the motion that is before us today on criminal records checks. Mr. Speaker, it is something I feel very strongly about. I believe the justice system in this country is too lax and it is no fault of young children, who have offenders molest them, that our jails and our justice system fails and lets people out of jail early that will re-offend. They are out there, Mr. Speaker. We have to take every step that we can to ensure that our children are safe in our communities and they are not going to be victims of sexual abuse perpetrated by these types of individuals. As I said, it is better safe than sorry. I know that it may be a little onerous on organizations and whatnot to carry out these criminal records checks, but I certainly would air on the side of caution when it comes to protecting our children. That is what this is intended to do.

I also wanted to say, as a society, we just can't tolerate abuse of any kind, sexual in nature or otherwise, against children. I think, as a community, we have an obligation to report abnormal behaviour by individuals to the RCMP. I think everybody can work at this together. If you see something in your communities that doesn't add up, that is not quite right, say something to somebody because, chances are, something is going on there, Mr. Speaker. I think, as a community and as a group of individuals, we owe it to each other to look out for each other. If something is happening in your communities, please say something to somebody because children may be affected. We certainly wouldn't want that to be the case, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I do support the motion as it is presented today. Like my colleague, Mr. Hawkins, I would like to thank Mr. Terry Rideout for coming forward and pursuing this with the vigor that he has. I think it is a tremendous thing that he is doing and all the accolades that that deserves, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just speak briefly in support of the motion. I do believe many organizations in Yellowknife anyway, already do criminal records checks on people that work with children. I know that the schools do that and the Arctic Winter Games Society I know is engaged in that. If anybody signs up to be a volunteer, they would have to go through a criminal records check. I think this is being done. However, this motion is to fill the gaps and to make it as comprehensive as possible. So I support that in that way.

While the government does not have the power to make the private sector do it, I think this is a statement of encouragement for everyone to consider doing that where

they are creating workplaces where their employees are in close contact with children and youth. I don't want to repeat everything that has been said already in support of this motion, so I will just leave it at that and I will be voting in favour of the motion. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise in support of this motion. It is a good start. I know a motion like this doesn't give all families 100 per cent confidence that our systems are protective of our children, but at least we are starting somewhere to give people a level of confidence to look at this government and say that we do care about our valuable resource here in the North, being our children, and that we are willing to take some extreme steps to ensure that that safety is covered under an umbrella motion like this which would basically give all our families in the NWT some level of comfort in our social institutions across the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, support this motion that's in front of us. I've spoken in my language about the importance of having a criminal records done on whether it be government jobs, but it is happening in our backyard as well with mining industries. Our elders have always stressed look out for those little ones, they're the future leaders, they're the ones who will be sitting here. They were talking about us and now we have to pass on the torch to protect our young ones. Even the mining industries are protecting their valuable assets, their precious diamonds, and also we have to protect our precious children. There are young ones in school.

I'd like to thank the Member from Hay River, Mrs. Groenewegen, for this motion that's been brought forward. The Member from Hay River pursued this avenue. I think this is very important and that it's time that we, as a government, moved forward and legislate this because it's already happening in the North here. The private sectors are doing it, why not us as government? We deal with children; we deal with teachers; all the professional levels. Some may have records that we don't know of and they are working with children. Volunteers, the community organizers, the sports coordinators; there is a whole variety of positions. So I think now is the time we act on it. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank Mrs. Groenewegen for bringing forward this motion and also Mr. Rideout, who is also here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, some time ago an incident happened up in Inuvik that saw that this type of procedure didn't happen within the residential school system. In a span of 20 years we had different people in our system that were hurting a lot of boys, and the communities weren't aware of what was happening. You talk about betrayal of trust; you know it's in the community. These men today are in the

community and they are working on their own families, healing their own issues and dealing with their own demons because of something like this that didn't happen in the '60s; it happened in the '70s. Finally it got some attention when one of the men spoke up and something like this is devastating.

Certainly, my heart felt, I don't know if it's sympathy, my heart felt sorrow and also appreciation for people in Hay River who had an incident like this in their community in terms of the damage that this one person could have done, or maybe has already done, in Hay River. What are we doing as a government to help that community deal with this issue here? Certainly for myself in Inuvik and Grolier Hall, that it was only after 20 and 30 years that it received some attention as to how this has really impacted our lives, impacted our families. The betrayal of trust was so deeply felt by our people, our mothers and our fathers, on this issue here that things like this happened in a government institution, also in the Roman Catholic run system here and that we ask that this government looks at this motion very strongly and supports this motion in terms of, as Mr. Lafferty has indicated, our precious resources, because this could cause a lot of problems for our people here.

I am too, in terms of support of this motion, to see which way the government will handle this issue here in terms of dealing with it and giving it some awareness and giving some strong messages to the people that work with our children that a situation like this will no longer be tolerated in our small communities. So thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen, for bringing this motion forward.

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

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank my colleagues Mrs. Groenewegen and Mr. Hawkins for putting forward this motion. I, too, will support this motion; however, Mr. Speaker, I think it takes incidents like what happened in Hay River to bring something like this. I really appreciate that my colleagues are standing up here today to support this motion. I think the intent of the motion is well to do. We have people that we have to trust with our children, like teachers, doctors, nurses, RCMP and lawyers. These are the people that we put our trust in with our family, with our children. So I think it's important, especially on the government side, that we're requesting the government implement something like this for our employees but even go further to ask the private sector to do that. I think just by standing up today I hope that all people that are out there, whether they're employees or contractors, will implement something like this to everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, stand in support of the motion. Mr. Speaker, my family has long been involved in volunteer organizations that deal with youth and people who are in vulnerable positions and it is, I think, very much standard practice and best practice in organizations, progressive organizations, that this kind of caution, this kind of due diligence, if you will, is something that is very commonly exercised. In fact, I think it's a condition of the insurance that many of these

organizations need, that they have this kind of policy and this kind of practice in place.

Implementing such a thing would be no small task. There are hundreds of people involved in connection with our boards and agencies and our direct employees, but I think it is something that we should absolutely consider. This is a very strong and very clear recommendation to government. It should not be taken casually and we look forward to a plan and an approach for implementing what really is now in so many other sectors standard practice and, indeed, best practice, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that those of us in Cabinet certainly agree with the sentiment that's expressed here today, that this is not the kind of issue where we have to have...(inaudible)...debate and disagreement, but one that we all have to stand together on.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out that our government already does conduct criminal record checks on people who are in positions of trust and also for those who are in highly sensitive positions. Protection of those that are most vulnerable has to be our highest priority, and our government will look very carefully at this motion and see whether there are things that we can be doing in an even better way. However, since this motion is a recommendation to the government, we will not be voting on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. I'll allow the mover of the motion to wrap up debate. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Members for speaking to this motion and for your response to it. It's very encouraging. I really hope that, as the Premier says, that the government will take this recommendation very seriously. Certainly there are certain segments where there are already criminal records checks being conducted when people are hired to certain positions, but there are gaps. Certainly one of the gaps is the organizations that are funded by our government and the employees of our boards and agencies. Right now I know that in Hay River, the school board is just now dealing with a policy to have this implemented for volunteers and people working in the schools. So there are gaps. The government has gone some way and I think this motion speaks to the need to do more where it is in our ability and within our scope of responsibility to do so. So I hope that the steps that will be taken as a result of this motion will be dealt with expeditiously, that we will see policies drafted and action go into place in a timely manner, and that this will become a standard protocol for people who are working for the government, who are working for agencies funded by the government, and also that the people in the Northwest Territories will hear this discussion here today and will adopt these principles, too, in the private sector and in the non-government sector. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would request a recorded vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion please stand.

Recorded Vote

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Miltenberger, Ms. Lee, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Braden, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining please stand.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Menicoche; Mr. Krutko; Mr. Roland; Mr. Handley; Mr. Dent; Mr. McLeod, Deh Cho; Mr. Bell.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Results of the vote: in favour of the motion, 10; against, zero; abstaining, seven. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Motions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Motion 4-15(6): Territorial Power Subsidy Program, Carried

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS electric power is an essential service;

AND WHEREAS a majority of our communities throughout the NWT continue to rely on costly diesel-generated power;

AND WHEREAS residential and commercial rates vary across the NWT;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has implemented a Territorial Power Subsidy Program which pays the cost differential between Yellowknife rates and those of other communities for the first 700 kilowatt hours of monthly private residential consumption, and the first 1,000 kilowatt hours of small business consumption;

AND WHEREAS the subsidized consumption levels have not changed since they were set in 1988;

AND WHEREAS the high costs of power paid by local businesses are generally passed on to consumers through higher prices;

AND WHEREAS the number of users who exceed the subsidy limit increases sharply during the months of November, December, January and February;

AND WHEREAS the cost of the Territorial Power Subsidy Program has continued to increase throughout the life of this Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories' March 2007 energy plan provides for a review of electricity rates and subsidies and the development of options to reduce overall system costs and provide affordable electricity to all NWT residents;

AND WHEREAS residential users of power lack the means to effectively monitor their consumption over the course of the month;

AND WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has recently announced an initiative for real-time, in-home smart metering to help homeowners measure and reduce their energy consumption;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government immediately undertake a comprehensive review of the Territorial

Power Subsidy Program, including a comparison of power consumption levels in the various regions and during different months of the year, and an examination of the option of setting annual maximum subsidized consumption levels as opposed to monthly maximums, to identify changes to the program to ensure that power is affordable for residents and small businesses in all NWT communities throughout the year, while maintaining an incentive for residents and small businesses to limit their non-essential power consumption;

AND FURTHER that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government report back to the appropriate standing committee of the 16th Legislative Assembly as early as possible in that Assembly's term of office;

AND FURTHERMORE that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government direct the NWT Power Corporation, and invite Northland Utilities NWT Ltd. and Northland Utilities Yellowknife Ltd., to develop an initiative to provide user-friendly, real-time, in-home metering, which would allow residential customers to monitor and, where appropriate, reduce their power consumption.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this motion comes from many community visits in my region and also other community visits in the Northwest Territories through our committee work, through our invitations to go to different communities and different visits. However, Mr. Speaker, this motion had been a while in terms of coming together and drafting.

Mr. Speaker, we really need to look at the issue, that we have some sense of ownership and that's the Territorial Power Subsidy Program that we could at least do something for our people in the small communities. Rates of diesel in communities range from 36.8 percent per kilowatt an hour in Fort Simpson to \$2.66.6 cents per kilowatt in Colville Lake, Mr. Speaker. In the smallest communities, that's where it hits the hardest for our people because the cost is spread out between very few of the people. Like Sachs Harbour, Mr. Speaker, pays 97 cents a kilowatt; Tsiigehtchic, 99 cents a kilowatt; Gameti, 82 cents a kilowatt; Nahanni Butte is 97 cents a kilowatt. While the first 700 kilowatts for residents are subsidized to the Yellowknife rate, above that level the power bills very quickly get bigger and bigger; 700 kilowatts doesn't leave very much room in the smaller communities, Mr. Speaker.

People have asked, through meetings and through the public notices going out from government, to conserve their energy by turning off the lights and doing certain things to conserve their energy in terms of the power rates, to make the power rates go down lower. Mr. Speaker, some of these appliances in real old houses, you just can't do that. Some of these smaller communities that these appliances that they use in the houses, some haven't been changed since the '60s and '70s. Mr. Speaker; we have a hard time to maintain the 700 kilowatt range. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people over the months have looked at this 700 kilowatts and say it's just not realistic. For example, in my communities, half the people in my communities go over that 700 kilowatts. A lot of times in our smaller communities a lot of people live in these small houses because of the lack of housing. You know, and they complain about the high cost of living, you know, and

even in a small business such as Colville Lake, you know, there are thousands of bucks that go into that Co-op store to support it and there aren't very many people. Like Tsiigehtchic, even in Wrigley, you know, these small communities that it's the only store in that community. Even, I read somewhere, in one of the responses from the government, in the year 2006 Nahanni Butte's store was, I think it was a \$72,000 power bill for that year. We're kind of lucky, somewhat, in the larger centres where there are one or two stores but, you know, a store like in Colville Lake, it's been reported to me, Mr. Speaker, that the power bill in Colville Lake for the Co-op store is about \$10,000 a month. My last count, three years ago, there were 134 people in that community. So how do you support that type of business asking the people to save their costs? We talk about the high cost of living here. Small businesses, they would absorb the cost, but the prices go to the consumers and the consumers come back to us and ask for assistance in terms of help with their high cost of living here in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this motion. I've had some good discussions with our Members here and upstairs. I've had some long discussions and looked at this motion here to give a strong message to government to look at this and see how we can help the small people in the communities. I look forward to other Members' views on this motion. Thank you.

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

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank my colleague Mr. Yakeleya for putting forward this motion. I think the motion is straightforward in terms of what we're expecting the government to do. A lot of private people appreciate the 700 kilowatt subsidy in the small communities...(inaudible)... Although it's not enough, I think we can live with it, but to a certain point. Also it's the small businesses in the communities. One hundred kilowatts, maybe that's not enough for them also. So I think that motion that we're putting forward today is important for both private and residential users and also the small businesspeople. I just hope that the government can listen on that side of the House that we do have a recommendation or motion in place here that they consider very seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in favour of this motion. I think that the 700 kilowatt hours is possible with new technology and energy-efficient appliances and so on. I think that theoretically the amount of consumption should be going down. So I think the 700 as a cap is okay.

I think the way it is administered, though, with everybody's consumption higher in the winter and lower in the summer, I would rather see it done over an annual averaging instead of just on a per month basis because relieving excess power that you're not using in the summer and you're ending up having to pay extra in the winter. So I would like to see it averaged over a longer period of time to make it easier for people in the small communities for their costs of living to be more affordable.

I think the territorial support program for commercial businesses just hasn't been effective, let's put it that way.

I think that it needs to be there for small business and how are we going to create economy in these small communities and why would anybody feel motivated to start a business that would require any degree of energy if they were going to be working for the power company? So I think that we need to look again at the thresholds for the commercial power subsidy. I'm not sure what they were previously, but we need to look at it and I know that it's intended not to be used by companies that might be part of a chain or larger companies, but those companies have some pretty serious power bills too and I will bet that those rates that they charge for their products that they sell in their store are based on some of those operating costs in those communities. So really the residents are picking that up, I would imagine too, in a very direct way. So this does need a little bit further study and a bit more consultation with the communities, but we need to do something. We've talked about the priority of this government in terms of positively affecting the cost of living for northerners and this is one way in which we can do it. So I fully support this motion. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, will be voting in favour of the motion that is before us today. I think that the program itself needs to be reviewed. I also think, and I've made mention of this in the House, that not all communities are paying the same power rates. Those served by NUL are paying lower rates than those serviced by the Power Corporation. We need to get a better understanding of how we can get the best possible power rates into the communities as we can. That should be the onus of any review, how do we give our residents the best value on their power rates? Mr. Speaker, I think that sometimes gets lost in the equation with the Power Corporation, Mr. Speaker.

I just think, like my colleague Mrs. Groenewegen said, you wonder why there's no small business start-ups in the regions. Well, they can't afford to open their doors because of the power bills that they'll be faced with and other utility costs that they'll be faced with. There's no bed and breakfasts, restaurants, small businesses. It's very, very hard to start up a business. I think we have to thoroughly examine why there's no small business in the regions, or lack thereof. I mean we've had economic development officers out in the regions for years, Mr. Speaker. They're trying to serve a purpose, but if a business can't pay their bills and the business case isn't there to open their doors, why do we even have EDOs out in the regions? You have to start asking yourself some of these questions as well, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I do support the motion that's before us today. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, speak in favour of the motion. It is, indeed, high time that the premise and the thresholds that were established I think about 15 years ago now, in the original policy, that this government chose to do were set and have not been amended since then. As Members have said, yes, the cost of delivering that service across the NWT has escalated considerably, but also, Mr. Speaker, so have

the demands of the modern household and the modern business. So while we're all coping with growing energy bills, we're also all coping with increased consumption. It is to some degree a choice, a matter of lifestyle and then part of this equation, Mr. Speaker, that comes back to us as legislators, to what degree are we going to choose to subsidize the provision of this essential service for our communities and our businesses and our residents. This argument for me, Mr. Speaker, has almost nothing to do with the actual rates or the service provided by the Power Corporation and Northland Utilities, it's a circumstance of our day and age.

So when this report comes back to us, I think it's going to be pretty predictable, it's going to recommend yes, let's increase our subsidy. How much more are we going to be prepared to do that? I think, Mr. Speaker, that will be as the motion requests or suggests, that it is something that the next Assembly will hopefully look at. Where we do now get I believe it's in the neighbourhood of a \$3.5 million dividend from the Power Corporation, this Assembly has routinely been voting about \$1 million more every year from the general taxpayers' pot to fulfill that subsidy. That's going to be about a \$9 million bill. So we're seeking right now about \$5 million to provide the subsidy at the level we know.

It's also, Mr. Speaker, I think important to recognize that a fundamental purpose of the program is we're not out there to pay everybody's power bill in full no matter how much power they want, it is a subsidy and in that it also has a built in intention or purpose to provide an incentive for conservation. So we should not lose sight of that. I do look forward to the examination of this, Mr. Speaker. It is absolutely essential that our communities and our residents do have a predictable and affordable source of electrical energy.

The other aspect of this that is long overdue of this motion, Mr. Speaker, is the request to review the regulatory framework for energy provision in the NWT. The Public Utilities Board operates within a certain framework and a certain mandate, but we know, Mr. Chairman, that there are many other jurisdictions that have adopted different ways of providing regulatory approvals and frameworks for what amounts to a monopolistic situation in the case of bigger utilities. The system we have now is really very cumbersome, hugely administrative, it costs all of us about \$1 million a year just to have a regulatory system for electricity. That is quite plainly something that we should be able to dispense with; we should be able to replace it with something that has much more efficiency, but still gives us the assurances that electricity is being provided at a good rate.

Mr. Speaker, providing that electricity is so much more than having generators turned on and pouring diesel fuel in and making sure there's linemen there and people to send out the bills. It's a tremendously sophisticated type of service, it is enormously regulated. It's probably within the top two or three that have such an extraordinarily regulatory burden. There's new technology, new standards, safety, the environmental conditions that have come upon the energy generating sector in even the past five or 10 years are enormous. So when we're customers, we're paying for, as I say, a tremendously sophisticated type of service and we demand a lot from it. The consistency, the quality, the availability of power, we deem it essential. We have extensive backup systems. A lot of research and work goes into making sure that the lights are on just as much as possible. So while we have I

think an extraordinarily high level of service and safe service, this does not come without cost. So we have to balance all of these things. I welcome the measures expressed in the motion, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to highlight my support for this motion that's in front of us today. I'd like to thank Mr. Yakeleya from Sahtu who presented this motion, and Mr. Pokiak as seconder. As we travel the North we hear right from the grassroots people that the power bill itself is extremely high in the small isolated communities. We just visited one of the small isolated communities over the past couple months; Ulukhaktok. When we went there and Tuktoyaktuk, we were just having discussions on the side. A person was having a \$1,200 power bill for one month. That's unreal. That's including when we look that it is subsidized. Still, \$1,200, I've never seen that myself and that's just ridiculous. I think we're passing on a message to the department to do even more since the subsidized consumption levels have not been changed since 1988. That's almost 20 years.

AN HON. MEMBER: It's a shame.

MR. LAFFERTY: It's a shame and we haven't really changed that to reflect the high cost of living in the North. The gas is going up, the diesel is going up, the propane is going up, everything is going up but the subsidy stays the same. It doesn't make sense to me at all. At the same time, the stores in the communities increase their price due to the high cost of power. It's unfair to put that demand on the community members, when an elderly lady, granny from Nahanni, other people in the North are suffering from this. We are here to speak for them. We need to listen to the northern communities, Mr. Speaker, and, most importantly, the people of the North. That's why we're here; that's why we're elected; let's make some changes. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also speak briefly in favour of the motion. There's no question that the high cost of power and the money that the people have to pay for use of power has been, and always is, the number one issue when we visit communities in regards to how it affects cost of living. I do like the multi-pronged approach to this motion. It is calling for a review in order that we could improve our power delivery system, I guess, and the rates of it for all the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I must say I don't necessarily agree with increasing power subsidy if it means that it encourages over usage or it does not allow us to have periodic checks on how we could do better in terms of how we use power, but I think this motion tries to address reducing consumption as well as figuring out how to help residents and small businesses where it's possible. Mr. Speaker, I think it goes without saying how important it is for us to really focus on reducing consumption not only because of the greenhouse gas and other negative effects it has on the environment, but we need to be reminded that energy is such a precious resource. It costs a lot of money for us

to make energy in the North, especially in smaller communities, and I think it's high time that we review this.

Mr. Speaker, I know in my own house that we sort of have a little competition if every month we could use less power than the month before. For myself, I'd be really interested in having a real-time, in-home, smart metering that will tell you every day what you're using and what power you're using and where that comes from. I would really like to see the government figure out a way to implement this. I think it would be very useful for every household and business in the North. I think that this would also require an energy audit on most of the houses, in all houses. I think out of this has to come a revamping and increasing resources to Arctic Energy Alliance's Home Audit Program because I think we'll be very surprised at how much energy that we don't need to use and we're using in our houses to light it up and fuel it and to every window vent that's not sealed properly or the doors that are not closing properly we're using power a lot. We live in a very harsh environment. There's power use that we cannot avoid, but I'm sure that there's no one here that doubts that we could do so much more.

Also out of this has to come a very strong public awareness program about the fact that power is such a precious and valuable resource, as valuable as the air we breathe and water we have to have. I think that has to be part of the public awareness campaign.

So I would just like to close by saying that I support this motion and I would like to ask the government to take this as a call for action to review where we are at and to figure out all ways by which we could improve the way we charge for power, how we produce power, how we use power and how we could all work on reducing consumption of power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. VILLENEUVE: Marci, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in support of this Territorial Power Subsidy Program motion due to all the reasons that we've already heard here today, Mr. Speaker, but also because of the fact that this program is almost 20 years old. In any subsidy program, I think, that this government initiates, should be revisited bi-annually or every five years to ensure that all the public money that we give out as a subsidy is being used in the best interest and in the smartest way that this government can work with. I think residential and commercial rates here in the NWT are definitely exorbitant and I think there's a real big imbalance between hydro and diesel, and that's not anything new to anybody here in the House. I would like to see more subsidies going out to the diesel communities and probably even less or no subsidies provided for hydro power and I'm sure we can strike a balance there somewhere. With the Power Corp that provides almost nine to 10 million in subsidies through the rate structure today, I think we really have to come to terms and sit down and think about how we're spending that money and are we spending it to the best benefit of all NWT residents on a fair and equal playing field. I think this motion here would probably bring the government to the table to address that issue and I hope that this will be worked into the government's energy plan, and that residents in Colville Lake and these very high rated communities that pay just right through the nose for power. It's a real detriment to the small business growth in these small areas and small communities, Mr. Speaker.

I hope that a revised subsidy program will encourage small business to come to the plate and say, you know, it could be a viable business, because the government spun some things around with the subsidy program and it will really help me move forward in creating small business in the small centres. I hope that this program and this motion would contribute to that success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, will be supporting this motion. It was quite some time ago I talked to Mr. Yakeleya about this issue about trying to find new ways to help communities. I talked to Norman about saying, well, what if we bumped up the subsidy rate to \$800, would that help? We had a bit of a discussion on that and there was some free-flowing talk about does that work, will that suit their needs. You know, we're not 100 percent sure, but there are many ways out there to help folks. That's kind of why I support this motion, is because it looks at different dynamics. Can we help them a little more in the winter months? We don't have to help them so much in the summer months. I mean there are different ways we could do this.

Times have changed, Mr. Speaker. I mean let's think about it. In 1988, a lot of homes didn't have multiple TVs, there were no cell phones and, by the way, if you had a cell phone in 1988, your power bill wasn't a big deal because it probably cost a fortune just to own a cell phone then. Computers, hardly anyone had computers. So really what I'm getting at is the average home has changed. The average home probably has a couple of cell phones; I wouldn't be surprised if people have computers on all the time. So are these power rates reflective of the times? I'm not 100 percent sure and that's an important issue to examine.

Our working poor are out there in the communities just working to pay their power bills. I mean that's not necessarily fair. If you had to go to work every day just to keep the lights on, I mean I think that should be a signal of saying wait a minute, our power bills are so unrealistic our paycheques are just going to that and it really makes people start to wonder why are they going to work.

Mr. Speaker, businesses are troubled, you can see that, the competitiveness out there. We all know that the operation costs are all spilt down back onto the consumers. So I mean if you live in a community, it's unrealistic that you should be paying \$4 for a can of coke, or who knows what you pay in Colville Lake for a jug of milk that kids...

AN HON. MEMBER: Twenty-five dollars.

MR. HAWKINS: Twenty-five dollars, according to my Sahtu colleague. The thing is, I'm not sure he's right, but the point is if we could make things more competitive, maybe we can also help those costs from being spilt down on people and we can also help encourage them to have healthier lifestyles, Mr. Speaker. Conservation versus consumption, it's great. Conservation is the right idea; change your light bulbs, those things all help. I've gone to Arctic Energy Alliance and I borrowed their metre, I plugged it in the wall, I tested my TV for a couple days, my computer to find out ways I could be more competitive, but you have to look at the bigger picture. Not everyone can afford a brand new washer and dryer to drop their

consumption rates and not everyone can run out immediately and buy a brand new fridge. So competitiveness in this area is difficult. But speaking about competitiveness, if we're trying to attract nurses to a community that they're paying \$1,000 or more for a power bill, why would they want to go there if they're going to be paid the same amount in Yellowknife or the same amount in B.C.? I mean why would they want to go to an area that costs them two or three times more to live? So it's about being competitive because if we can't attract people there, they're not going to make any money. So we sort of have to recognize the value of those types of problems.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I just want to say that although all these rates are based on Yellowknife and that's what's coming into question and may be part of the challenge, as a Yellowknife Member I certainly have no issue with this being examined. I have no hesitation because the fact is if we're making it unbearable for people to live out there, I mean we have to question our values. Are we helping people? From the sounds of it, we're probably not. So that's why this motion says what it says, which is we have to make life more affordable for people who live out there. So I thank my colleagues Mr. Pokiak and certainly Mr. Yakeleya for bringing this forward. Mr. Yakeleya has brought this forward for three and a half years, so now that the motion is on the floor of the House it will probably be a little quiet for now on this issue until the 16th Assembly probably. So maybe we'll get some breathing space. Very good motion, thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is a recommendation to Cabinet so we will not be voting on it, but certainly there are many implications to the motion that deserves serious consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. I'll allow the mover of the motion to close the debate, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll be very brief. I thank my colleagues to speak their minds in terms of this motion. Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I come from a community that has a high cost of living to the people there. Mr. Speaker, the community that we recently visited, as Mr. Lafferty indicated, was Colville Lake and we talked about some of their costs in that small community and the generator there that powers the community and their power bills being \$2.66.6 cents a kilowatt and their store in Colville Lake also has a huge power increase.

Mr. Speaker, the question I had for my people in Colville Lake is why is a small community as this, the numbers and the high rate and they don't seem to understand the high cost of paying power and coming into Yellowknife where they pay in cents. If you go down to Fort Smith, they're paying I think 11 or 12 cents a kilowatt and the smaller communities have to pay more. It doesn't seem fair for them, the overall picture. No matter how you explain to them it just doesn't seem fair that they're paying \$2.66 a kilowatt, while in Yellowknife they're paying pennies for a kilowatt. Even if you do the Power Subsidy Program of the first 700, they're still paying more. That community is isolated; its way up in the barren lands; the winter road is only in there for three months; the houses are overcrowded; the appliances in their homes are old. Mr. Speaker, people in Colville Lake said when the power

generator came into Colville Lake, it would have been nice to have had NCPC talk to us about power consumption. We never really understood the use of power. They were encouraged to have their own store, so they got the Co-op. Even in that, they say it's \$10,000 a month power bill. No wonder the milk, the other things, are so high. You have to pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to know, hopefully through this review, how was the \$700 picked in terms of a 700 kilowatt? Where did that rationale come from? Do the communities that are paying the high cost have input into this \$700...I'm sorry, 700 kilowatts. I am sorry about this, Mr. Speaker. The motion speaks to adjusting the power rates and the power subsidy. That is something we have some control over. We are paying too much and not using enough of the kilowatts...obviously can't be used, sorry, in the wintertime in December, January and February to help them with their power here.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wanted to make reference to an initiative in B.C. where they have this in-home metre reading so the communities can take the responsibility of their own power consumption. Our businesses could take ownership of the power consumption. Right now, this metre goes around and around. People don't really understand. I don't see anybody in our small communities going out and checking and saying we'd better slow down. There are so many numbers on there, they don't really understand it.

So they had some mechanism in their house and they could look at it and say it will come to 700 and take some responsibility. Right now, they are just blaming government and getting on us to increase the power subsidy or do something with the power, reduce the payments. Doing business in the North is expensive in the isolated communities where we rely on diesel.

Mr. Speaker, I heard earlier about the hydro. It makes us wonder. We will have a cost of living similar to the one down south here in the Northwest Territories. Then maybe I can start looking at hydro, mini hydro or look at the hydro in our areas. We are certainly not getting much help in our communities by this government here in terms of the power subsidy. I know they spend millions and millions and it just doesn't seem fair.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In closing, I thank the Members for the debate. I look forward to the review. I look forward to seeing the communities receiving some type of stronger initiative in terms of power rates to cut down the cost of living in the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

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

ITEM 18: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 9: Write-off Of Debts Act, 2007-2008

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 9, Write-off of Debts Act, 2007-2008, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 9 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 10: Forgiveness Of Debts Act, 2007-2008

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 10, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2007-2008, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 10 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Bill 11: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2007

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 11, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2007, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 11 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Bill 12: Public Health Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 12, Public Health Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 12 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Bill 13: Change Of Name Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 13, Change of Name Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 13 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Bill 14: Employment Standards Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 14, Employment Standards Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 14 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Bill 16: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 16 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 8, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. When we left off on Friday, we had just finished the general comments on Bill 8. We were just about to go into the detail. What is the wish of the committee today? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. The committee wishes to consider Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2007-2008, in detail. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Very good. Thank you. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): We'll do that after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Roland, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. To my left, I have Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar who is the director of budget evaluation; to my right is Mr. Charles Tolley who is the manager of budget development. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Committee, any further general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Okay. Detail it is. We will defer consideration of Bill 8 itself and deal with the detail booklet, so please turn to page 5 of the bill. Page 5, Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, not previously authorized, office of the Clerk, \$125,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Expenditures on behalf of Members, not previously authorized, \$13,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, not previously authorized, \$138,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 6, Executive, operations expenditures, executive offices, not previously authorized, \$199,000. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Madam Chair, the question I have for the Minister, Madam Chair, is the survey on family violence is \$75,000. Madam Chair, there are a number of surveys, a number of reports, a number of recommendations and I want to ask the Minister, Madam Chair, in terms of expenditures on this to tell us that we have an issue, tell us that there are action plans already being discussed and recommended. I would like to get more clarification on this survey of \$75,000 to tell people in the Northwest Territories that we have an issue and we have problems with family violence. I am trying to figure out why they have a survey. Other recommendations have been done before in terms of family violence. There are certainly issues in the North here. Also to look at, Madam Chair, the territorial family violence conference and put that money towards the uses of front-line workers instead of spending \$120,000 there. So I would like to ask with regard to these two specific funding issues here. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a breakdown of what makes up the numbers for the survey of \$75,000 and for the conference of \$120,000 for details of how that conference and survey will go... I would ask the Premier to give that detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I will answer the question with regard to the survey. The survey is being done because we have been working to reduce violence and so on. We don't have any baseline data, so we need to have a baseline data that we could work from to know the areas where we need to put more effort on public education, prevention strategies and so on. The survey would involve a sample size of 750 respondents and would be distributed amongst various strata within the different communities. Thank you.

PERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the family violence survey in terms of collecting baseline data to residents in the Northwest Territories and the 750 respondents talking about information. I think there is already existing information within the system that could be used already. I haven't seen the survey myself, so I am not sure what type of survey it's going to be. Is this a matter of collecting baseline data? There is data already in the system on family violence. I am not sure about that one.

I want to ask the Minister regarding the family violence conference and the use of this conference. What is the purpose of having this conference? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. With regard to the conference, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to mention first that we work along with a lot of other partnerships like with NGOs and so on. So it's not always our decision or direction in terms of what will happen.

The people on the Coalition Against Family Violence feel quite strongly about the conference. They feel a need to build that awareness and at the same time do some training. The conference will accommodate 120 participants from across the North. It's broken down into four sessions. Each session focuses on one action that

has impacts in communities. They will use some expertise, as well as facilitators in the groups, and will use this information and the consensus that they achieve in order to help them to develop better programming, better intervention techniques and a better focus. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have no issue with better training for front-line workers, better resources but I am having somewhat of a difficult time having another conference telling us this is what we have to do. It's been an issue in our communities for a long, long time. Front-line workers know the issue of family violence and they know they work with different coalitions such as the Family Violence Working Committee. This money has been spent to bring in 120 workers from different areas of the Northwest Territories to look at training, look at different areas they can work on to reduce, minimize and prevent family violence in our communities. I am having a hard time with the \$120,000 expenditure. I think this money could be used for going into the regions and tackle the problem as there is always a lack of money with these hard-working committees that work on such issues as family violence. It certainly could be used now. I certainly don't understand the need for a conference to tell us we have an issue with family violence. I would ask the Premier if they have anything new to add in our discussion here.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, I don't get to all of the coalition and government meetings. Again, there have been a number of meetings. They have, in the Framework for Action - Phase II, there is a whole list of actions in there that have been laid out. The consensus among all the partnership is that this is an opportunity to bring in one caregiver from each community and experts both from the North and from the South. The culmination of those people to take a look at the actions that are identified and determine what is the best way of being able to put those in place. So it's a conference, but it's not just a conference to blue sky about what we might do, but it's more a conference of how we go about implementing the framework in a way that is going to be most meaningful to the communities. Of course, as well, there is also work that has to be done on the survey and collection of baseline data. What kind of data do we want? Make sure that this doesn't just fit the experts' ideas of what it should be, but also the caregivers from the communities. So it's a combination of both coming together. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to confirm my support for these hard-working people that deal with family violence in our communities. We need every type of support. We need to work with the family, the children, the abuser and victim. They have to work with the whole community on this issue. Family violence is a very powerful, very sensitive, we have to be very careful to work with the family on this issue here.

What I want to say, Madam Chair, is some of the family violence workers are underpaid. Sometimes they are in term positions and sometimes they have to leave their job early because there is no funding left in the program. There is a lack of funding in the program. I am again

telling that to the Minister. The territorial family violence conference, I am not sure if that could be coming at a later time. I think this money could be used to help fund our workers. There are workers in my region being laid off because there is no funding in the system. There are workers that need to be supported in the schools where family violence is often not talked about. So there are small children. We know what is happening in our communities.

I understand what the Minister is saying about bringing people together and talking and training. I think we need to really look at the workers in terms of supporting them, getting the funding to small communities. I am not too sure how this money is going to be rolled out in terms of community input, community involvement. There will be \$75,000 spent in one organization, or go to the health boards to do their own surveys, to do their own recommendation. So I know what he's saying. I want to support the Minister and this is a very good initiative, but I think the money could be used, and that's just my opinion, for the front-line workers and the help they need. The conference could take place some other time. That's my opinion and I want the Minister to know that. I do support him in the issue of helping to deal with family violence in our community.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Okay. Next on the list under Executive, operations expenditures, executive offices, not previously authorized, \$199,000. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I've got a number of questions on this as well and it follows up with my colleague Mr. Yakeleya. I guess first of all, the Action Plan on Family Violence was approved by the Assembly I believe 18 months, two years ago, now. It's been around for a little while. I'm just wondering if these two functions, the survey and the territorial family violence conference, are items that are included in phase two of that action plan. Why is the Department of Executive coming back through supplementary appropriations seeking money to have these two things carried out when they should be coming through the business planning process, Madam Chair? That's the first question I have.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this was one of the areas, that category, all departments had put in for new initiatives during our original business planning process and with the fiscal information we had at the time, we directed all new initiatives be parked for the time being until we knew what our fiscal situation would be as a result of the federal budget, and this was one of the new initiatives within the Department of Executive. So they did try to initially come through the business plan process, but because of our fiscal situation we had parked all of the new initiatives until this time knowing what our fiscal position was now with the federal government budget passed. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I thank the Minister of Finance for that explanation. The conference on family violence, I guess it's nice to give the providers of that service from around the territory an opportunity to get together to share information and coordinate efforts and things like that. It is \$120,000. That's something I can live with, Madam Chair.

The survey, though, is another story. I know the Premier mentioned earlier about baseline data. I mean I'm not an expert in this field by any stretch, Madam Chair, but if you want baseline data, I don't think you need to look any further than the RCMP and the reports that come down on incidents of assault, domestic violence. You can find that information out. In addition to that, we have community-based social workers who can tell you what's going on. So I don't buy the fact that we need baseline data. I'm not sure who the 750 people that you'd be talking to, who they are, which organizations would direct you on who to talk to and whatnot. So I'd like a little bit more information on this survey, if I could, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, for the financial breakdown, I can provide that to the Members. For the detail of the actual survey work, I'd have to go to the Premier. But the financial breakdown has been provided. Survey design is \$3,500; interviewer salaries is \$30,000; travel for operations, \$26,000; printing and communication costs, \$5,500; data capture and systems, \$5,000; data processing and preparation of files and documentation, another \$5,000, for a total of \$75,000. For detail of the survey, I'd have to go to the Premier. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think I wouldn't mind if the Minister responsible could give us an explanation on why it's necessary to get this other baseline data when I think if you look in the right places, you can find it. My colleague Mr. Yakeleya said it earlier, we know what's going on out there; let's do something about it. Spending money on surveys and studies and reports and paying consultants, I think we're past that. As one of my other colleagues mentioned, that's yesterday's news. So let's move on with things and put the \$75,000 towards something where it can make a real difference, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again I want to remind Members that we have, we're doing this in partnership with the Coalition Against Family Violence. Those are the people who are the front-line workers. Those are the people who are facing the issues every day. Those are the people, you know, the family support centre in Hay River, the Tuk women's and children's shelter, the Inuvik Transition House, the Alison McAteer House, Sutherland House in Fort Smith, the Centre for Northern Families, the Status of Women Council, these are front-line workers. I think it's probably frustrating for them, they know the business, they know what they need. They're asking for it. They're saying we need baseline data. They're saying we need to look at programs for children who witness abuse. We need to get together and improve our training on shelter workers. These are the kind of things they want us to do. Now for us to start second guessing what they need I think is probably a bit demoralizing for them. So I have to support them and say, look, they are working along with the NGOs, many of them very poorly paid, and we're taking a lot of direction from them. But we need to have the resources to be able to back up the work that was done. This is phase two of a report that came out a good probably two or three years

ago since we first did this. So, Madam Chair, I don't want to guess at what they need for baseline data. I'll take their front-line experience and say let's build with them. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank the Minister for that. I'm not here today to demoralize anybody. What I'm here to do is my job and ask questions. I hear also from the front-line workers where there's not enough money and resources, especially for the NGOs. So if we are going to spend \$75,000 on a survey and then we've got other NGOs saying we're not doing enough for them, there has to be a balance somewhere and I think we do have to ask some questions. The list of organizations that the Premier had mentioned that were going to be part of this survey, I'm wondering if there's going to be any men that are going to be interviewed in this process, Madam Chair, because as I've heard from some of my constituents, violence is a two-way street. I think it behooves the government to actually stand up and do something not just for women, but for men as well. There's a lot of violence that happens in the family that is done by men, but it also happens, as a matter of fact, where women are the culprits and the instigators of violence, and I think men have to have just as much say in any type of survey that we're going to conduct here because it does happen. I have heard stories, horror stories, about that happening to men as well. So let's be fair in this and I think I'd like to ask the Premier, are men going to be included in the survey? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Premier.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is a Framework for Action on family violence. It includes women; it includes children; it includes men. It's family violence. We're not putting a priority on one or the other. We're looking at all aspects. Now, when the front-line workers want baseline data, I'm sure it's going to include that discussion; who's going to be surveyed, what kind of baseline data do we need and so on. But it is family violence, not against any one sector. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. No, and again, I don't want the folks that are out there that are working in the area of family violence, I want them to understand we are going through this process today in an effort to make things better for the work that they're doing out there in the field and it's oftentimes a very thankless job and I do thank them very much for the job that they provide this territory. So with that, thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Next on the list I have Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I, too, wanted to put a little bit of a focus on the survey and the conference items there. While they were contained in a briefing that committee got, Madam Chair, I don't recall the details myself. So this is not a surprise in here, but I think it would be, it's not very often that money is attached to the descriptions of these things that committee hears about. That comes up now and we're looking at \$75,000, for instance, for the survey and I believe Mr. Handley told us that this would cover 750 people. So in one sense it

boils down to \$100 a person to do a survey. Without knowing the depth or the scope or the methodology, I don't know if that's good value or not.

I would, I guess, make a similar comment about a conference; \$120,000 for 120 people is a thousand dollars a person. Madam Chair, good research, well conducted, has great value, and I think the same kind of thing can be said for conferences and meetings. When they're well focussed, they have a good objective and everyone is well prepared. They can, indeed, make consensus and implementing programs very, very successful as opposed to those that aren't. But I think at \$200,000 for these two new initiatives, perhaps what committee is questioning here is value for money and wanting to ensure that these are not just efforts to go out and do yet another study health related. The Department of Health, of course, has quite a reputation for doing a lot of studies and conferences too, which I think sometimes are put together as a way of sort of helping some people feel good about what they're doing, but what is the real value to the system, back to the communities and back to the people? Those are the things that I'm challenging in here. I don't want to take this away from the Action Plan on Family Violence, but put a flag on, as I say, making sure we're getting value for money. Because there are tremendous needs on the front lines that even \$195,000 could make quite a difference for. Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, for the record I should also state that the package that was put together on responding to the Framework for Action II on family violence is, as we heard earlier, a question that should go through the business plan. It was initiated through that process. This piece has come through this avenue because of the lateness of our fiscal picture as a result of the federal budget. It will go back into the business plan for the next five years, but what is proposed here, for example, in this funding through the Executive, one is, yes, the development of baseline data, as well as to fund the conference. If you look, some of the additional information we have is it's a territorial leadership and policy forum. So as we proceed forward, we would need to know in what areas should we be highlighting some additional expenditures. So I think that information through this work can be used for that benefit, as we proceed down this path of looking at investing in this package. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: No further questions, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Next I have Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to add my view or just add my thoughts on this topic to sort of enrich the conversation, perhaps. I don't know. Let me just put my two cents into this. In looking at this, at first I looked at this and thought, I guess, it is an item that may raise an eyebrow or two. But if you really look at it, maybe it's the name, maybe they should change the word "conference" to something else because if you look at it as an assembly in the North, it's very important. We put high value in bringing community people together into one place, wherever that might be, to exchange information and to get their input into what's going on on the ground.

I want to tell you, in February, when the Status of Women Council organized a Joining the Circle women's conference, that was a huge undertaking and I believe I made a statement in the House stating that the keynote speaker who came from Toronto, she told me, she said she could not believe how permeating the issue of family violence was. We could not move on with our agenda because no matter what the topic was -- it could have been about community capacity building or it could have been about leadership, how to run for office, it could have been about how to put a proposal together -- just the topic of family violence came up everywhere. The most popular session they had was the healing session. The women that were there felt empowered to learn that other women leaders were going through the same thing and they were also empowered to learn what was being taught at the conference and knowing that they could take that to their communities and do something with that. In fact, out of that conference, the Status of Women Council is organizing a two-day workshop at the end of the month to debrief all that went on and they're going to put up strategies together for the government to act on.

So I'm thinking, I think it's important for us to think of this as a, you know, the community government conferences. There have been a series of conferences, very well organized by NWT Association of Communities, to learn about the new formula and the New Deal for the communities, the whole water and subsidy programs that's quite complex. It's a professional development course, as well as learning, as well as sharing information, as well as crying together. I mean we, all the women had to talk about what they were going through with respect to family violence issues and how the family violence issues are affecting every aspect of our lives in our communities. So I think I could see that if the headline tomorrow is "Government is Approving \$195,000 for Conference" that may not look so good. But I think that we know enough in this gathering to know that it costs money to bring people together. I believe it costs 40 to 70 thousand dollars a day to have us meet here. It is important for the people who are caregivers or who are working with people who are suffering from family violence, people who are trying to do something about what to do about our family violence issues, that they gather together. We know that to bring 120 people together, it costs money, and it costs money to travel, it costs money to accommodate them, it costs money to bring people together. It's not just for them to get together to just get together, it is an action place, it is a thinking place, and I'm sure there will be lots of good recommendations coming out of that.

So I just wanted to add that to the context and to also add to a comment made about the fact that we need to address the issue of family violence against men. I do understand that there are men who are victims of family violence and other forms of violence, and the government has a role to play in addressing their needs. But I don't think we should ever lose sight of the fact that the overwhelming majority of victims of family violence are women and overwhelming perpetrators of family violence are men. It's not all men, but that's just the way the stats lie. So I just don't think, in putting forward the good suggestion that government should look after the men who are victims of violence too, we should in any way underestimate or undermine the overwhelming stats that show it is the women who are locked up in a house and raped repeatedly for days and left to...We've had that happen in our communities in the last two days. The most violent crimes committed, in family violence or sexual

assaults, are done by men against women. So I just want to make sure that we put this comment in proper context. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. As I stated earlier, this is the initial start of the response by our government towards looking at Framework for Action II. The rest of this will fall through the business plan process. We do need to get some of this information as we proceed and put a framework together on how we would react as a government and where our investments would best be made. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Is there anything further, Ms. Lee? Thank you. Next on the list, I have Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to follow up. I heard what the Premier had to say regarding the survey and the conference. There were about 750 respondents and 120 participants for these two items. I would like to ask the Minister with regard to surveys. I am pretty sure that all the shelters that are across the Territories have intakes that they work with. Can they take those intakes from the region and the communities and say, look, if there are numbers there, it tells us that there is a problem. I am sure that, while the intakes that they have, it will show that without doing a survey. We could put that money for the front-line workers. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we know that there is a lot of information out there. It is a matter of pooling it all together so that we can use it and how we would prepare or respond in future years as we look at what parts of the framework we would be able to fund. There is information out there that we can use. As highlighted earlier, there is a lot of information out there, but we need to pull it together as well as do some in-depth interviews with individuals as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thanks for that information, Mr. Minister. Again, I feel very confident that putting \$195,000 for the front-line workers so that they can do education and all that prevention of all these things, I think that would be utilized a lot better than doing a survey and a conference. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. I guess that was more of a comment than a question. The Department of the Executive, operations expenditures, executive offices, not previously authorized, \$199,000. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. For \$75,000 they are proposing a family violence survey. I disagree with that. If you want to get a survey of all the family violence that goes on, talk to the people at the front line. I think they will give you a much better survey. Who initiated this request for a survey? Was it the people that provide the services or is it another government initiative? The government seems to like to do surveys and studies. The people on the front line, I am sure, can use this \$195,000 to enhance the programs and delivery of programs they already have. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this all comes out of the work that was done back in 2004 when the government released its response to the Coalition Against Family Violence, NWT Action Plan on Family Violence. Our response to that is what we are starting to look at. So it is the government's review of that work and coming forward with some recommendations as a result of that initial work. That is where it is stemming from. The Premier, as well, has more information on that, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. A lot of the recommendations come from the coalition itself. The government is one member on that coalition. There are the groups I mentioned before. What they are trying to do is get a balance between the support for salaries and so on for our front-line workers and training of workers. Just to put more money into workers and not giving the training that is necessary may not be the best arrangement either. So it has to be a balance. The idea of collecting the baseline data came largely from the coalition. They want to know whether or not what they are doing is changing and having an impact on attitudes toward violence, for example, and a number of other areas where what kind of public education programs or campaigns would be most effective. A lot of it comes from the coalition itself. We respect what they are saying. We know that they are experienced people. They are the ones who can give us advice. A lot of it is their advice to us. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to close with the fact that none of us on this side of House is questioning the importance of all the work that these folks out there do. None of us would ever do that. In my particular case, I try to make sure as much funds as possible reach the people on the front line because they are the ones that are providing the service. I have had the opportunity to deal with a few of them. I know some of the stresses that they are under. A lot of it is financially related. So that is the point in my asking the questions on these particular issues, Madam Chair, because I just want to make sure that we don't get too top heavy again in administration and not enough flowing down to the people who actually provide the service. Thank you. It was just a comment.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. That was just a comment. There was no question there. Executive, operations expenditures, executive offices, not previously authorized, \$199,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$16,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total executive offices, not previously authorized, \$215,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Executive continued, operations expenditures, Financial

Management Board Secretariat, directorate, not previously authorized, \$2.623 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Government accounting, not previously authorized, \$19,000. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Madam Chair, one of the items under the directorate, \$798,000 is to provide contribution funding associated with the transfer of public housing rental subsidy funding for seniors' assisted living and seniors' caretaker housing units from ECE to the NWT Housing Corporation. Madam Chair, we just went through quite a turnaround here over the last couple of years of moving operation money from the Housing Corporation to ECE; now we are moving some back. I would appreciate an explanation, for the record, of what this \$800,000 contribution funding is going to do that otherwise can't be done or can't be done as well, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the initial work in transferring the program from the Housing Corporation over to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment looked at all of the different subsidies that were out there in the housing area and put within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. After further review of the program, it was felt that a couple of areas would be better situated back within the Housing Corporation that fit with the existing program that they deliver in the area of assisted living for seniors. So you see this pile of the money going back. What was originally part of the original large transfer from the Housing Corporation to Education, Culture and Employment, this piece is going back to the Housing Corporation because of the further review of the subsidy areas. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: I am sorry. I am no further ahead. What is it paying for? What is this \$800,000 supplying, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. It breaks down into a number of categories. For example, assisted living in seniors' units. The rental subsidy there is about \$478,908; independent seniors' caretaker units, \$75,948; and O and M for independent seniors' units makes up the remainder of \$242,760.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Okay. What is the difficulty or what are the issues that ECE is encountering that it cannot administer this along with so many of the other contribution programs that are made through housing? Madam Chair, it's quite a confusing piece of work here. I am just trying to make sure I am not missing anything here.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Madam Chair, as stated, it's money that was originally part of the original transfer, now back to Housing Corporation and deals with the two

categories of assisted living for seniors and independent seniors caretaker units. For more of the detail, I believe Mr. Dent can provide it.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Madam Chair. All of the funds were transferred over as part of a global program, but afterwards we discovered that, like most landlords, the Housing Corporation had been providing either free rent or reduced rent to caretakers of buildings. So the buildings had a caretaker who looked after them. That's a Housing responsibility; it's not one of the income support programs. So this wasn't really a subsidy to someone with a low income. So it's more appropriately handled through the Housing Corporation. So since it's a management function making sure that the caretaking of the units is looked after, the way that that's done is through either free or reduced rent to somebody who is the caretaker of the unit, not a unit but a building. We've transferred the money back to the Housing Corporation, so through their local housing authorities they can properly administer the operations of the buildings.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: How many buildings and how many caretakers are we talking about here, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The total number of units is 45. I should add a little more detail. It's not only about the independent seniors' caretaker units. There are only seven of those units. When you look at assisted living for seniors and the way the services are provided, it's level two senior level care provided at the Jimmy Erasmus Centre in Rae-Edzo and support services for the cognitively impaired adults at the Stanley Isaiah Centre in Fort Simpson. So because there is a health attachment to that area, it was felt that it was best not suited to be in public housing but back in the Housing Corporation where both departments can work cooperatively on that. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Okay. So we are blending a health issue, housing issue, a staffing issue all in a bundle here. I am beginning to understand now, comprehend the intention here and I don't find any argument with it, but the manner in which it's presented is very obtuse, Mr. Chair. I guess it makes me a bit frustrated in having to deal with these sums because \$800,000 is no trifling matter.

I also wanted to ask, Mr. Chair, it's called contribution funding to the NWT Housing Corporation. Is this new contribution funding that we are turning over to the Housing Corporation or is it a transfer from ECE of money that you've already got, so we are just moving it back and forth? Why is it called contribution funding then? Perhaps I may not be paying close enough attention. Is there an offsetting amount somewhere else in the supp? Right now, this looks like new money going into the Housing Corporation, at least the way it's stated here, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of ways this breaks down.

One is the \$798,000 is not new money. It's in and out. The other portion is offset by, I believe, you are referring to the \$1.080 million was your second question. No? Okay, the \$798,000 initial amount that was raised is not new money. It's a matter of the way we flow money now because of the recommendations made by the Auditor General of Canada. The money comes through the Financial Management Board Secretariat and is now flowing through FMBS and then to the Housing Corporation. That's as a result of recommendations from the Auditor General.

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

MR. BRADEN: Okay. Thank you. There is further in the supp an offsetting amount, a similar amount. Thank you. That satisfies my question about new money or just switching pockets here. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I've exhausted that one. I do hope the Minister has taken some notice to sometimes the degree of information provided and just how clearly stated some of these programs are, these projects are. Mr. Chairman, that's all, thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Financial Management Board Secretariat, directorate, not previously authorized, \$2.623 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Government accounting, not previously authorized, \$19,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total Financial Management Board Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$2.642 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): On to page 8, Human Resources, directorate, not previously authorized, \$96,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Corporate Human Resources, not previously authorized, negative \$101,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total Human Resources, not previously authorized, negative \$5,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 9, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, not previously authorized, negative \$1,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (MR. POKIAK) Total Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, not previously authorized, negative \$1,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$2.851 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 10, Finance, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$8,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$8,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$6,000. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a few questions regarding funding for two regional resource development impact advisors. It was a few years back where the two positions came in and I believe they came in through supplementary appropriation as well. They were to be sunset after two years. I guess we are reaching the end of the two-year period. We had hired these two individuals to work in the regions on resource development impacts. We don't have a pipeline yet. So the first question I would have is what did these two individuals do for the past two years and how do we measure performance for positions like this in the absence of any resource development? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I think we are going a little bit ahead, but maybe I will get the Minister to answer.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the information we've been provided is areas that staff positions have been involved with in preparation for pipeline activities is community profiles have been accomplished or completed for half of the communities in the impact area; identified community issues and concerns for inclusion in the GNWT general submission to the JRP; ongoing liaison with community governments during negotiations of the SEA, including feedback on proposed methods of addressing the issues; assisted community governments in the development of proposals for the delivery of programs using previously available funding; as well as organized regional follow-up meetings. For more detail, we could go to the Minister responsible, if that's required.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I would look to the Minister of MACA for some more information on this, but judging what Minister Roland had to say, a lot of the work that these individuals would have been doing the past two years is something MACA would do just as a matter of course; community profiles, working with communities, setting up meetings. That's pretty basic run-of-the-mill type of work, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for MACA how he gauges the performance of two positions like this and how does he defend them coming again for renewal here, \$291,000 for an additional two years, or one year, or what the story is. Maybe I will look to the Minister for some answers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, sorry. Initially, we had four positions on a term expecting hearings and negotiations to be completed by this coming year. However, as everybody knows, the project has continued to move forward not as quickly as everybody expected. We have done a lot of work in terms of working with the communities to do the baseline studies. As the Member has indicated, we would expect MACA to have these as a matter of course. However, that's not the case. We don't have the information as to

what assets are in the community, what size, what the capacity is. We also developed a template of different things that the communities could use as part of the tool kit to talk with industry. There has been a lot of discussion; there has been a lot of work done in the areas. We are now looking for continued work in that area. We are looking for two positions. I guess the biggest part of the work that needs to be done is the negotiation of the access and service agreement. The larger centres are probably not aware because money has been provided to them to negotiate those agreements directly. In the case of all the other communities, the proponent has indicated that they are not willing to negotiate access and services with each community and they expect this government to do that on their behalf. So that was one of the bigger parts of what this ask is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find it a little hard to believe that MACA doesn't know the capacity in each and every one of our communities. That is their mandate. They have to know what's going on there. I know the government, years ago, used to publish community profiles, a booklet, when the Northwest Territories included Nunavut. It published a yearly book on community profiles and it was quite detailed. I am not sure if we are still doing that type of work. From time to time, when we look at communities, somebody gives us something. It's called community profile and it's got some information in there, but this is the kind of work that I am surprised to hear that it doesn't get done and the department doesn't know what the various capacities are in the communities. It's something I think for a variety of other reasons, especially when it comes to funding, Mr. Chairman, we've had some questions on the capacities in various communities and what it is. So I think that work has to get done.

I didn't hear the Minister say how long these positions are for. Are they indeterminate positions forever and a day or are they two more terms? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe they are for a term of two years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: No, that's good, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$6,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One more question on page 11 and that has to do with the funding to support the implementation activities associated with the New Deal for communities. If I remember correctly, the original number that was the ask by MACA was for \$100,000. I just wanted some more information. The committee said they wanted that money taken out, but it's come back as half; \$50,000 instead of \$100,000. So I wanted to ask the Minister what the impact of not having

\$100,000 would be and what is going to happen with the \$50,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is right; we had looked at the recommendations committee had made in a number of areas and went back to departments with a discussion what was requested. It was felt that there still needed to be some investment in this area for what was required, and we can go to Minister McLeod for the detail to substantiate that. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The New Deal initiative has been undertaken and it's all been handled with funding from within up until now. We have never requested any additional resources to implement this whole initiative. Things have been going very well. However, it's taken up the dedication from a lot of our staff people. There are a number of projects that have been deferred and delayed because of that. The trans fund didn't move forward as fast as we would like it to happen because we needed the resources to work on a New Deal. That's the same with the discussion paper on the Planning Act. The granular study was something that didn't go as quickly as we wanted because we didn't have the resources. We had indicated we needed \$100,000 to provide the support. It was recommended that this be reduced. We figure we can go ahead and \$50,000 will help us. It will mean that we can't move ahead on some of the initiatives that we are working on now, including the Planning Act, the Lotteries Act and a number of things. If the money is not there, we will really have a problem. It's a huge undertaking to do some of this work that requires us to provide the technical work, the financial analysis and the training support to community governments as we progress. It's something we need to do and we can't move away from it. If the resources are not there for us to support this, then we will have to take it from other places.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is obviously much more aware of what the capacity is inside the department to carry out the work that needs to get done. Judging by his comments, there is more work than there are people or whatever. This \$50,000, I know he said it's to support. Does that mean you are looking at a new PY, somebody coming in to do the job, or what does he mean in terms of support? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the understanding is this funding is to support the workers of MACA, as do workshops to help put a framework together, as well as develop the tool kit the Minister earlier made reference to. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the \$50,000 is going towards developing a tool kit and putting on some workshops. Is that right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. McLeod would be able to provide more detail on that.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are a number of things we would like to do with this money. First of all, there is a need to continue to work on developing a tool kit for the New Deal program. This includes the cost of contract work including the cost of using the local government administrators. We also need to develop individual community implementation and transition plans. That would also mean having community government regional meetings. We would also have to host some workshops and there is a real need to do some training sessions. It would also include some dollars towards staff travel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That sounds like a great deal of work to get conducted for \$50,000. I wish the Minister and his staff the best of luck with that. I am not sure they have other resources to draw upon inside the department, but it sounds like they have some room there because it sounds like a big piece of work, Mr. Chairman. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I will recognize Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, at this time I move to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. There is a request to report progress. Does committee agree? The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall now rise to report progress.

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

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the committee has been considering Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2007-2008, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements

7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 15, Liquor Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9, Write-off of Debts Act, 2007-2008
 - Bill 10, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2007-2008
 - Bill 11, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2007
 - Bill 12, Public Health Act
 - Bill 13, Change of Name Act
 - Bill 14, Employment Standards Act
 - Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 4, NWT Hydro Corporation Act
 - Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2007-2008
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 15th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 18:07.