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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Tuesday, May 15, 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 House. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. Honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 18-15(6): Congratulations Grads Of 2007

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, this is a very exciting time of year. Over the past two weeks, graduation ceremonies have taken place at all three Aurora College campuses. Graduation ceremonies have started at schools throughout the Northwest Territories and will continue to take place over the next month.

Each graduation is a significant milestone in a person's life. We are very proud of NWT graduates and I would like to take a moment to congratulate them on their commitment and dedication. Many have made sacrifices to reach their goals and their efforts go far beyond academics.

While it is too early in the year for me to be able to report on the number of high school graduates, I would like to provide you with some highlights of the Aurora College graduating class of 2007.

I am pleased to note that 2007 marks the 20th year of operations for Aurora Campus in Inuvik.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, this campus maintains a strong working relationship with the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in people, who help fund a variety of programs, including the Natural Resources Technology Program, short-term trades training and safety training. Fifty students graduated from the Aurora Campus in Inuvik.

---Applause

I would also like to recognize the 55 graduates from Yellowknife Campus and 31 from Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith. Students have graduated from a variety of programs including Management Studies, Recreation Leadership, Office Administration, Traditional Arts, Nursing and Nurse Practitioners.

Mr. Speaker, our Aurora College graduates this year came from across the Territories including many smaller communities like Tsiigehtchic, Aklavik, Deline, Behchoko, Fort Liard and Fort Resolution. Having students from various communities graduate in a mix of disciplines

shows the college is meeting the needs of a northern society.

Although award ceremonies for many apprenticeship and technical training programs do not coincide with the academic school year, I would also like to recognize the

achievements of individuals pursuing careers in trades and occupations at a time when the northern economy is very rich and there is a great demand for skilled workers.

Mr. Speaker, all graduates this year deserve special recognition. However, I would also like to recognize the people who helped them reach their goals. Grads could not be successful without the help of their family and friends who have spent much time devoted to their pursuits. It's also important to recognize the many teachers and community members who stand behind every graduate. The countless hours they dedicate to the success of grads has helped them achieve their potential.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of all our northern students and ask Members to join me in congratulating them. We all recognize the importance of education and training when creating a strong and skilled workforce. Education has a strong relationship to the health and well-being of society and contributes to greater satisfaction in work, life and community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ministers' statements. Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Minister's Statement 19-15(6): Canada Health Infoway

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce a major partnership between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Canada Health Infoway.

Canada Health Infoway works with provincial and territorial governments to accelerate the implementation of electronic health information systems. A network of these systems will link clinics, hospitals, community health centres and other points of care in the NWT and Alberta.

Canada Health Infoway has agreed to invest \$5.7 million between 2007-08 and 2009-10 to implement an electronic health records system in all communities in the NWT. The GNWT has agreed to invest an additional \$1.1 million for a combined investment of \$6.8 million.

Electronic health records will provide primary care providers with more complete and reliable health information about their patients. This will lead to better access to healthcare services for NWT residents, enhanced quality of care and a more productive health care system. Patient safety will be improved by linking our practitioners to modern technology used throughout Canada.

Alberta Health and Wellness and the Capital Health Authority in Edmonton will continue to partner with the Department of Health and Social Services throughout the implementation phase of this project. The network is scheduled to be operational by March 2008, with final completion by February 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ministers' statements. Honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Menicoche.

Minister's Statement 20-15(6): Implementation Of New Driver Manuals

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker...(English not provided)

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Transportation is issuing revised versions of three NWT driver manuals and is introducing the new Motorcycle Handbook.

The previous versions were close to 20 years old and out of date. The revised manuals are now consistent with other territorial and provincial jurisdictions and contain the latest driver information and techniques to ensure that drivers are able to safely operate all types of road vehicles in the NWT.

The four manuals provided by the Department of Transportation to NWT residents include:

1. The Basic Driver's Handbook, which provides information to all drivers.
2. The Professional Driver's Handbook, which provides additional information about driving commercial vehicles. It is used with the Basic Driver's Handbook when learning to drive a truck, tractor-trailer, ambulance, taxi or bus.
3. The Air Brake Manual, which provides information on the air brake system and the components that make up the system.
4. The Motorcycle Handbook, which provides additional information on the safe operation of motorcycles, mopeds or power bikes. It is used with the Basic Driver's Handbook.

The four handbooks cover all classes of licences available in the Northwest Territories. They provide important information to help residents to obtain an NWT driver's licence and become safe and competent drivers.

Paper copies of the manuals are distributed across the Northwest Territories for a fee from our driver and vehicle licensing issuing offices. Digital copies are available for viewing and downloading at no extra charge on the Department of Transportation's website.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation would like to express its appreciation to Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and Kingland Freightliner of Hay River for their contribution to the development of these manuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Alcohol Treatment Aftercare Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) We live in the Northwest Territories in isolated communities, but we have problems with alcohol problems in our communities. Everyone is affected in the whole family when someone is drinking in the family and we know this problem exists all over the place. Although they go for treatment for one month, whether in Hay River or further south, the problem is the aftercare programs. They have nothing in place for these people. How can we help these people once they return to their communities? Do they

have counsellors in the communities to help them? Do we have all the necessary things in place for them? A lot of them are serious about resolving their problem, helping themselves to keep away from alcohol. We need to guide these people through once they return from the treatment centre, but we don't have any aftercare programs in our communities. This is one of the questions I will ask the Minister later on. (Translation ends)

We all know that alcohol is an issue in the Northwest Territories. I would even venture to say that it affects every individual in the Territories. Without...(inaudible)...statistics, it affects addicts, their family members and friends directly and the rest of the community in terms of health care, policing and so on. It is an issue that concerns all of us, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, those suffering from addictions have two choices for treatment whether it be Hay River or a program down south. Much of their success, however, depends not so much on the actual 30-day program or 28 days, as on their behaviour upon returning to their communities. That's where we need to look after them. This is where we fail them, Mr. Speaker. The NWT has yet to provide adequate aftercare for those suffering from addiction so they can be supported on the road to recovery. Mr. Speaker, without aftercare support, we are dooming them to failure. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister responsible for Health and Social services at the appropriate time. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Public Information Campaign To Denormalize Alcohol Abuse

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I want to join my colleagues in speaking about alcohol and its impact on the lives of residents here in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, as a government, we've had much discussion surrounding alcohol and other addictions and the services we provide to residents. Mr. Speaker, we have to do more.

The common denominator in family breakdown, family violence, violent crime and the segue into other addictions is alcohol. As a society, we have normalized the consumption of alcoholic beverages to the point where much of our leisure type of activity involves alcohol to one degree or another. If we were concerned about portraying a positive message to the children and youth of the Northwest Territories, we must look at ways in which we can denormalize the consumption of alcohol.

The GNWT and the Department of Health has had a very successful campaign in the Don't Be a Butthead program. We have enacted tough laws dealing with the sale and distribution of cigarettes and we need to examine how we are going to legislate alcohol. Mr. Speaker, the government is finally getting around to the introduction of the much anticipated new Liquor Act.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. RAMSAY: One of the general themes stemming from the NWT Alcohol and Drug Program's discussion paper from last fall was that there needs to be more attention paid to health promotion and prevention programs. Investments need to be made and programs aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing the onset of

addictions. These would be required in order to effectively combat alcohol and drug issues. The more children in the NWT that we can get into sports and recreational type activities, the better the chance they will have to choose healthy living. We need to get more physical activity into our schools and into our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the government for initiatives like the Get Active campaign which was kicked off today in the Great Hall. We need a campaign to target alcohol consumption, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps Don't Be a Boozehound could be the name of this campaign. You could have a dishevelled-looking dog with bloodshot eyes that has the shakes go around to all the schools in the Northwest Territories talking about the impact of alcohol abuse.

---Laughter

As a government, we have to do our best to effectively deliver the message on alcohol consumption. We've done it on smoking. Let's take alcohol head on and do something about it. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Actions Required To Address Alcohol Abuse

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a common theme we heard in our travels across the Northwest Territories in the last year or so, other than elder abuse, was the fact that a lot of people want to see an Aftercare Program for alcohol and people who are seeking treatment have a couple of options. They can go to southern NWT or they can go to the South. One of the big concerns I know from my region is, again, the Aftercare Program. When they do come back, there really is no programs in place for them.

Mr. Speaker, alcohol is a big part of the Northwest Territories and it's probably one of the biggest addictions we do have up here. Growing up in Inuvik in the '70s, alcohol was normal. With all the activity going on up there, alcohol was easy to get and it was easier to get than pop. As a result, many of the kids that grew up in the '70s ended up with problems with alcohol. If you wanted to seek treatment, you couldn't have it in your community.

The recent visit up to Inuvik, and I had some of my Social Programs colleagues with me, we were invited up the river to a camp that is being put together by the Nihtat Gwich'in and the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MCLEOD: It is a camp, Mr. Speaker, that has a tremendous amount of potential for the people wanting to deal with their alcohol addiction and deal with it close to home. There are some people without that support group that may find it easier to go south, but there are also a lot of people that want that support group with them. I commend the Nihtat and the Gwich'in Tribal Council for seeing that there is a problem and not just talking about it. We talk all we want. They see a problem there and they want to do something about it. Mr. Speaker, alcohol is a killer. Today, it is no accident that I decided to dress in black because black is a colour of mourning. I mourn all of those people that we have lost over the years to the effects of alcohol. Now, as a government, we have to

work in partnership with the aboriginal groups who want to quit talking and finally do something about it. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Denormalizing The Abuse Of Alcohol In Northern Society

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, as you can see, we are talking about alcohol. I want to talk about alcohol abuse. We don't talk about it enough. Could it be that we have become acclimatized or desensitized to the presence of alcohol abuse in the North? Maybe we have accepted it as a fact of life in the North and we have just learned to live with it.

Occasionally, we throw up some stats on some of our social indicators compared to other jurisdictions or national averages. Yes, there we are still with some of the worst instances of premature deaths, suicides, motor vehicle accidents, boating accidents, teen pregnancies, FASD and sexually transmitted diseases. Alcohol abuse affects all of these indicators. Is this what we are prepared to accept? We spend millions of dollars addressing health, wellness, child and family violence, justice, policing and education challenges related to alcohol abuse. I often wonder how the RCMP members can stay positive about the work that they have to do, when we think about how much of their time and efforts are absorbed by alcohol-related calls to deal with domestic violence, disorderly conduct and public drunkenness. It must be very discouraging after awhile.

So what does our society and attitudes toward alcohol abuse teach our young people? One other Member shared with me today -- and this is what they observed when they were growing up -- if there is something to celebrate, just about anything, drink alcohol. If it is a sporting event, drink alcohol. If you are unhappy, sad or stressed out, drink alcohol. Mr. Speaker, abusing alcohol is a personal choice, but it is little wonder that so many people make that choice when it has become such a normal way of life in the North. As a personal choice, people need to understand that it affects everybody in their sphere of influence. They are sending a message to everyone around them that it is normal, it is okay.

Alcohol abuse in some way touches on and permeates a life in every region, in every community, every family and every individual in the North today. It impacts the work of every teacher, nurse, RCMP member, counsellor and extensively affects the work of us as a government. What could we do with the resources now dedicated to the ravages of alcohol abuse? Just imagine the possibilities. We need to recognize alcohol for what it is. Mr. McLeod said that it is a killer. I have to tell you today that I state that I hate alcohol and the effect it has on our people. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Focusing Resources On The Prevention Of Alcohol Abuse

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, as well, will be speaking about the issue of alcohol. As a territory, we strive for a sustainable society

and a strong economy. That is built on two key factors. You need a healthy environment and healthy people. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, based on my 56 years of life experience, that the single biggest impediment, in my opinion, in the Northwest Territories to healthy people is the abuse of alcohol. I know that from my personal experience. I know that from working in Health and Social Services and from being Minister in this House to see the endless struggle we have trying to lower the indicators that tell us we have a prodigious appetite for alcohol and drugs. It affects all the other problems that we do have.

If I had one single wish for this territory, before resource revenue sharing, before decentralization, it would be first and foremost to ask that we be granted no more abuse of alcohol, and from that instant on life would change for the better in the Northwest Territories.

The issue for us is twofold. We have generations of alcohol damaged people, FASD, young and old. Our jails are full. Our family shelters are full with alcohol-related issues. That is one challenge. The other challenge, and even more important in the long term, is the prevention side by trying to have babies born healthy. Otherwise, as a jurisdiction like other jurisdictions across this country, we will never have enough money, institutions, treatment facilities, homes and jails to fill to keep pace with the alcohol-related problems.

The challenge for this government is in fact to make a dent on the prevention side. We aimed at increasing our expenditures in Health and Social Services on the prevention side up to 1 percent. That figure is going to have to continue to rise if we are serious about doing serious battle and improvements with these indicators.

Mr. Speaker, it is not as simple as tobacco, unfortunately. As my colleagues have indicated around this table here, that the reality is adult sports, for example, are all tied to alcohol. That is where the key components in the whole exercise, be it hockey, curling, baseball, basketball, you name it. Young folks see that. We know that there are families...

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that there are cases where the adults drink upstairs and young under-aged children drink downstairs in the same house under the assumption that it is better to have them drink where there is other type of supervision. So the issue of denormalizing the use of alcohol is a fundamental one. That is our challenge.

As we move into the 16th Assembly, we are going to have to raise the amount of money we put into prevention if we are, in fact, finally going to make a dent on these terrible statistics. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Social Marketing Effort To Denormalize Alcohol Abuse

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We are a society of binge drinkers, young drinkers and violent drinkers. The

statistics in all these areas in the NWT are at or near the top of the charts of Canadian booze abusers. Our challenge, Mr. Speaker, it has been said many times and it has to be said over and over again, is to refuse to accept this type of behaviour any longer.

Mr. Speaker, there is a relatively new art or science in the way broad-based behaviours like this can be changed. It is called social marketing. It is something we have adopted in other areas. My colleagues have spoken in praise of the Don't Be a Butthead campaign and there are other things we have done. The Get Active one that just kicked off here today, other campaigns, for instance, more awareness about safe sex, are just the way some campaigns conducted along these lines that change the way society accepts or does not accept these aspects of our daily living. In smoking, for instance.

Whether something is considered normal or acceptable is where we want to focus our attention. It wasn't that long ago where it was quite normal to smoke, of course, in bars, restaurants and offices, even schools and hospitals. Today, that is very abnormal. When we talk about ways of denormalizing our extraordinarily lenient drinking habits, we are going to need much more emphasis and creativity to show us that we can make responsible decisions for ourselves, that we don't have to follow the path of our friends, families or others in our community that might be showing. Mr. Speaker, government can make the laws and the policies that will set the limits and send the messages out that we need to change. The policing and courts will enforce and hand out justice. The key role, then, belongs to parents and community leaders, health and education professionals and, most importantly, each and every one of us to help break the devastating cycle of alcohol abuse in Canada's North.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the first step that we can take will be one that we will do right here on the floor of this Legislative Assembly to resolve to do more than just enough. We have to overcome our own complacency and all the reasons that we can easily find to continue to avoid the crushing burden of alcohol abuse in our society, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Positive Lifestyle Role Models

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to join in regard to the discussion today about alcohol. However, Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize role models in communities who have shown leadership and to promote alcohol-free lifestyles.

Mr. Speaker, alcohol and abuse that stems from alcohol always seems to overshadow the work of community leaders and front-line workers such as alcohol and drug counsellors do in both large and small communities. Front-line workers and community leaders are role models in communities because they are trying to promote and educate our young people in the communities of the ill effects of alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, growing up in a small community and eventually having to leave home to complete high school, I was fortunate enough to have two loving and caring people to direct me to the right path. I am speaking of my late father and mother. I remember my dad travelling in

the dark of winter by dog team to tend to his daily trap line and would be gone for at least two weeks at a time. On his return home from the trap line, my mother would occasionally make what we called home brew because, Mr. Speaker, during those days alcohol wasn't a commodity like it is today.

Although my parents drank occasionally, they did not turn violent like in today's society. They were responsible drinkers, but, more importantly, they were caring parents who raised 16 children. Parents in those days cared for their children by showing them the values to respect their elders and all the members of the community. Mr. Speaker, by having such caring parents in those days, my brothers and sisters today are able to become educated and eventually respect the people who live and work in today's society. My parents were my role models as I was growing up. I appreciate all they did for me.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing community leaders and alcohol and drug counsellors and they have shown leadership by being alcohol free but, more importantly, leading by example and communicating to young people that we can live life by being alcohol free in today's society.

In closing, I would like to thank those parents who have shown leadership, community leaders and front-line workers across the Northwest Territories promoting alcohol-free lifestyle, and they respect the communities and show them they are the real role models in today's society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Spiritual Component Of The Battle Against Alcohol Abuse

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would make my comments to the other Members in terms of this issue here. Mr. Speaker, this issue is very close to my heart. Mr. Speaker, I have seen many good people in my communities, in the region, people in the Northwest Territories, a lot of good people who should be here in the Northwest Territories enjoying life. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the disease of alcoholism had gotten them. Mr. Speaker, I speak from personal experience that when we have alcoholism in our communities, you know, it takes away life, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's not a good feeling in our small communities.

Mr. Speaker, alcohol is going to be here for a long, long time. The effects of it are felt very hard in our small communities. Our government, this government here, makes millions in profits each year on this issue here.

Mr. Speaker, you know, there's people in my communities that, for some odd reason, they can take a drink and that's good. Take one drink and that's good, and they leave it. But, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I'm just the totally opposite. I get mad; I get angry. But, Mr. Speaker, I recognize and I accept I have an issue with alcohol in my life. And life is about life, Mr. Speaker. These young people that are drinking, it's about life. They're taking their life. A lot of young people really, really need to look at that issue here. Hopefully through this discussion here, we can give life back to them. Take them on the land. That's what the elders are saying. Put them on the land. As life is spiritual, and alcohol is a spiritual issue, you have to have

a spiritual remedy for this here. It's not about putting them in programs or it'll help them somewhat, but for the people. Put them on the land, Mr. Speaker. I have seen it firsthand, in terms of how alcohol affected my people, my own family, and my community. It's sore, my heart is heavy in this discussion here, talking about alcohol.

So, Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Members for making this a theme day and hoping that the government's listening in terms of our discussion this afternoon. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Impact Of Alcohol Abuse On Young Northerners

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I also rise today to raise some awareness about the responsibilities of both the public and the government when we're addressing the social impacts of alcohol abuse here in the North, especially amongst our youth. Mr. Speaker, northerners have been living with the impacts of alcohol abuse in all our communities for many years. Many communities have groups and leaders that have come forward with many solutions on how to deal with this issue. Some have had some positive results, some negative, and some have not had any effect on curbing alcohol abuse within their respective communities. I'd just like to point out, Mr. Speaker, and commend all persons working toward an alcohol-free community, workplace or family, that your efforts do not go unnoticed, nor are they in vain. Because every little bit of awareness raised and addiction to alcohol avoided is success in my books, Mr. Speaker, especially for our youth.

The youth are the most at risk. It is with our youth that the effects of alcohol abuse are most noticeable because this often results in grief, pain and sorrow for families and communities by youth suicides, attempted suicides, assaults and other crimes related to alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, the real challenge for many -- and many do try -- is to try and provide some positive direction and instill a sense of dignity to our youth while, at the same time, trying to deal with our own demons. This is where we all have to have a responsibility to provide the support and encouragement to keep trying and help these people to never give up. We, as a government, need to continue to develop a campaign that puts more emphasis on programs that contribute to social well-being, like sports and recreation, education, and family planning, while, at the same time, denormalizing alcohol use in our daily lives so that one day our youth can stand up and declare to themselves and their family and to their friends that alcohol use is not normal for them and in their surroundings as it was in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Denormalizing The Abuse Of Alcohol In Northern Society

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here today to declare alcohol abuse and alcoholism our public enemy number one. Mr. Speaker, there's nothing else that harms us more and creates more

sorrow and hardship and prevents us from moving ahead and being the best that we can be than the overuse and abuse of alcohol. Inappropriate use of alcohol is condemning unaccounted numbers of our children to lifelong conditions of FASD and FAE. Alcohol abuse is keeping our residents out of schools and workplaces and into hospitals and jails. Alcohol abuse is a quick segue to our people going into a horrendous and miserable life of drug addiction and drug dealing and all the other problems that come with that.

Mr. Speaker, alcohol abuse is infecting our people with STD and STI and spreading those diseases. Mr. Speaker, I would venture to say if alcohol abuse was stopped today we would see our crime rates go down by at least 90 percent. If we can stop alcohol abuse, we would not have to hear about women being locked up for days and being raped and beaten up. Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't need to have so many children suffering from the trauma of family violence if we could stop alcohol abuse.

Mr. Speaker, in our travels to communities we learn that there is rampant elder abuse arising from alcohol abuse by young people. Our seniors are living in fear because of the goings on and all-night drinking that goes on in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we must deal with alcohol abuse head on and we need to address them on all three fronts: prevention, treatment and enforcement. The strongest focus has to be on prevention, because no treatment and enforcement would be enough if we don't address the prevention in a very serious way. Mr. Speaker, this is why we need to denormalize abuse of alcohol. We have to make it unacceptable for people to get drunk and inflict pain and suffering on others. Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest a slogan of Don't Be a Bottlehead for consideration to go with the Don't Be a Butthead campaign, but I kind of like the...

Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to finish my statement?

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I'm not sure how that would compete with Don't Be a Boozehound, but we need to do a concerted and focussed and well-resourced campaign and to engage everybody in our communities and everybody in the Territories to say that we have zero tolerance for alcohol abuse and negative effects of alcohol. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite the leaders and everyone in our territory to join us in this campaign. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Contract Negotiations For Aven Manor Employees

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish I could be talking about the abuse of alcohol today...(inaudible)...with my colleagues, but with a short session I have another topic I have to raise today that's very important. March 31st is always a significant date in the NWT and it's the end of the government's fiscal year. As well, it coincides with the end of many contracts that go

along with our NGOs. Today I'd like to talk about one of those contracts, or lack of contracts, Mr. Speaker.

Workers at Aven Manor in Yellowknife saw their contract expire six weeks ago, on March 31st. These qualified healthcare professionals and associated workers, even though they work for an NGO, in my opinion, deserve wage parity with government workers who care for people in long-term care in our hospitals. They are working in the same field and, in essence, they are doing the same job, Mr. Speaker, taking care of our people. For me, this is an issue of fairness and ensuring NGOs are able to attract and retain qualified personnel. If we can't pay them fairly to do a job the government has handed away, how can we expect them to carry on? I am not going to get into how the government and the department need to enter into good faith bargaining sooner rather than later, but with a pending strike vote before us we need to avoid another Nats'ejee K'eh at all reasonable costs. I know the Minister will tell us that negotiations are the responsibility of the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority and the authority will say that they can't make an offer without funding approvals from the department and the Minister. But the long and short of it is, Mr. Speaker, we need to put our front-line healthcare workers first and ensure that any potentially affected seniors, people and our families, are not put at risk because of dithering on this important matter. We need to avoid any costly situations that will eat up resources and the time of other healthcare workers who will need to work overtime to cover those short-staffed positions if the potential gap in services shows up through a strike vote. If any wage parity is an issue, we need to find a solution, Mr. Speaker. I would, however, like to remind the Minister that a strike vote could happen within a month or so and typically these situations are never resolved over summers.

Let's avoid another potential ugly strike and work out a deal as soon as possible as reasonably as possible, Mr. Speaker. That being said, I urge the Minister and the Department of Health to provide the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority the support and financial information they need to enter into successful negotiations so we can deal with this problem and we can get it done once and for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to three visitors in the gallery today: Mr. John Quirke, a former NWT deputy minister and is now the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly for Nunavut.

---Applause

Tony Rose is the manager of facilities and technical services with the Nunavut Assembly.

---Applause

Jerry Giberson is a communications and technical consult from Ottawa.

---Applause

These gentlemen are here in Yellowknife today to work with members of our staff towards the implementation of a joint northern assembly broadcasting service. Welcome to the Assembly, gentlemen.

---Applause

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a number of people to introduce, a number of constituents and employees from Aven Manor. I'll start with Jacqueline Brule, employee and local president; as well as Victoria Duculan, Sue Beztilyn, Eva Embodo, Bella Husky, Evelyn Sabourin, Sheila Laity and Gloria Taylor. From the PSAC office I have Dorothy Ablitt, Marija Babic - I think that's right -- and Heather Longstaff. I hope I got everyone's name correct.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize a constituent of mine, Mr. James Andre, who's in town for the presentation this evening with regard to the Three Rivers Conference that's going to take place at 7:30 at Northern United Place. I'd also like to recognize a former constituent from Aklavik, Bella Husky. Welcome.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, we have Peter Huskey of Behchoko. He's in the gallery to listen. I thank him for attending. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Mr. Bryrne Richards of the Tree of Peace, a great advocate and a worker in the addictions field here in the NWT and in a number of other communities in the NWT.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a former resident of Fort Providence, used to be my neighbour, Evelyn Sabourin, who's now a resident of Yellowknife.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Assembly. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience here. Acknowledgements. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 6: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to rise in the House to acknowledge a constituent of mine, Taylor Fraser, who has been accepted into the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario. The RMC is a prestigious Canadian institution similar to West Point in the United States, RMC Sandhurst in the United Kingdom. RMC is

one of the most difficult universities in Canada to gain entry into. It's a bilingual university and graduates are not only granted a degree, but also Queen's Commission to third as an officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. This is a significant accomplishment for any young person, especially one from a small community in the isolated region of the Sahtu. Good luck, Taylor.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

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

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 78-15(6): Contract Negotiations For Aven Manor Employees

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I outlined in my Member's statement today, I have concerns with the status of the negotiations that are going on at Aven Manor here in Yellowknife. I also mentioned the concern of the level of support the department is providing the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority in conducting those negotiations. Can the Minister inform the Assembly on the status of the negotiations with the union representing the workers at Aven Manor here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 78-15(6): Contract Negotiations For Aven Manor Employees

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is highly unusual that we would get into a negotiation process in the Legislative Assembly. We have been working with the Department of Health and Social Services on this matter and we will continue to work with them cooperatively and hopefully have a successful conclusion to the whole negotiation area. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 78-15(6): Contract Negotiations For Aven Manor Employees

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister confirm that the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority has the ability and financial backing of the department to negotiate an agreement with the workers at Aven Manor? Wage parity is the one critical issue that needs to be solved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 78-15(6): Contract Negotiations For Aven Manor Employees

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think, again, as we are in the midst of negotiation, that to raise it in this forum puts pressure on both parties, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority. As I stated, we are working cooperatively with them and hopefully we would have a successful conclusion to this. The issue of wage parity has come up all across the government in a number of areas where we have contracts in place supported by NGOs. That issue has to be looked at by the government at some point. I guess, when first called upon to look at this area of wage parity, our NGOs at the time said we can do it better and

cheaper. The government did it in the day. Now it has turned around to say give us the same. At that point, we would have to look at it, as government overall, to say if we are going to be the same, then maybe we should all be in the same hat. But at this point, we are working cooperatively with the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority and hoping for a successful conclusion. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 78-15(6): Contract Negotiations For Aven Manor Employees

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister willing to direct the department and the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority to do everything within its power to make sure that all contract negotiations are concluded before the summer months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 78-15(6): Contract Negotiations For Aven Manor Employees

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is asking me as the Minister of my department to get directly involved in the negotiation process. Right now, the employees are the employees of the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority. We have a contract with the Aven Manor and are employees of that facility. They are continuing to have their negotiation process. We are watching what is happening. As well, we are working cooperatively with the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 78-15(6): Contract Negotiations For Aven Manor Employees

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could I get the Minister's position on adequate funding for NGOs in regards to wage parity? Is this an issue that the department feels that should be solved? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 78-15(6): Contract Negotiations For Aven Manor Employees

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the Member is asking for my opinion on a process that is underway right now in negotiation. I am not prepared to give that at this point. I am prepared to work with my department, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, to hopefully come out with a successful conclusion. Thank you.

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

Question 79-15(6): Department Of Human Resources Strategic Direction

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask questions today to the Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Dent. Over the past few weeks, there have been a number of jobs advertised in the local media. Mr. Speaker, one of my favourites was manager of total rewards. It got me to thinking that perhaps the employees of the government were accumulating points to redeem for some toasters, camcorders or iPods, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Human

Resources, a department that has, as I mentioned the other day in the House, six managers managing six people. Of these new positions, how many of them are new? What does the job of manager of total rewards entail? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 79-15(6): Department Of Human Resources Strategic Direction

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member asked how many new positions were new. All the new positions are new. Of the positions advertised, two are new. The rest are existing positions. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember that the amalgamation of the Department of Human Resources was staffed with 188 people. Over the course of the year and a bit that has happened since then, the staffing component has dropped. So these are not additional positions. These are positions that have been outlined in the Hackett report and recommended for inclusion. We expect that, from 188, the department will, over the next little while, be down to the recommended 170 positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 79-15(6): Department Of Human Resources Strategic Direction

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Hackett report, it also says that the Government of the Northwest Territories is completely out of whack with an organization of comparable variety where you look at employees per transaction. In a normal government operation, you look at seven. We have 24 employees per transaction, Mr. Speaker. What exactly is an organizational design specialist? Is this just to organize the 170 employees at Human Resources, or is this position government-wide organizational design? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 79-15(6): Department Of Human Resources Strategic Direction

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hackett report did say that the government organization was out of whack with comparable size organizations, but we have taken their advice and will very shortly be at exactly the structure and number of employees that they recommend. So, Mr. Speaker, we have used their guidance to move to where we should be. An organizational design specialist would work with other departments, as well, to talk about how their structure should be established.

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

Supplementary To Question 79-15(6): Department Of Human Resources Strategic Direction

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have mentioned, in the Department of Human Resources there are six managers managing six people. I would like to see somewhere...I know it is not mentioned in the Hackett report, but how can we keep hiring manager-type positions, positions where we are going to have to pay more to have these folks employed at Human Resources? Why do they all have to be management positions? What

is the ratio of management positions in Human Resources to actual on-the-ground employees in that department? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 79-15(6): Department Of Human Resources Strategic Direction

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, the structure of the Department of Human Resources will be just as recommended by the Hackett report very shortly. That would mean that there will be the number of managers that were recommended as well as the staffing levels.

It takes some time to move. When the department was created, we had 188 people that came in from various departments. Trying to move those positions into the exact right position for each employee and to fit into the organization has been somewhat challenging. It has required retraining, staff moves and it takes some time to go through the process without a wholesale layoff or mass firing, which was not something that we wanted to do. So it takes a while to get to that structure, but, Mr. Speaker, we are very close to being there now.

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

Supplementary To Question 79-15(6): Department Of Human Resources Strategic Direction

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister could make me feel a little bit more comfortable today if he could tell me that the Department of Human Resources today is working on a comprehensive human resource strategy or plan long-term that is long overdue by this government. Are they working towards that, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 79-15(6): Department Of Human Resources Strategic Direction

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has worked with some departments to prepare the long-term plan and stands ready to work with other departments as they are prepared to work with us. It is an offer that is out there. The department would agree that it is something that we need to do. Thank you.

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

Question 80-15(6): Alcohol Treatment Aftercare Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I mentioned this in my Member's statement regarding an Aftercare Program. Is there currently an Aftercare Program in place? That is my question for Health and Social Services. (Translation ends)

I would like to focus today on the Aftercare Program where we send out community members or even individuals going for treatment for a month, 28 days, whether it be down south or Hay River. The Aftercare Program is vital to recovery road. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, can the Minister please outline programs that are currently in place in the communities to support those with addictions returning from their treatment? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 80-15(6): Alcohol Treatment Aftercare Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are quite a number of programs that we are involved with right from when an individual comes forward requesting support in this area of alcohol and drug addictions counselling through our framework and the revisions working with NGOs, this government and Members of this Assembly. There are a number of areas we have tried to focus on, and that is improving access in communities through community wellness workers as well as mental health and addiction workers and working with those that would come through. As well, in a number of communities -- and I have to admit, it is not in all communities -- there are groups. For example, there is the AA program that follows aftercare as well as one of the other methods. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 80-15(6): Alcohol Treatment Aftercare Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the statistics show that 36 percent of the overall population and 53 percent of people aged 15 to 24 consume more than five drinks per day, Mr. Speaker. These stats are compounded when we include those dealing with suicides, accidental deaths, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, education and employment. Obviously, what we are doing is not working. Has a review been done in each community to look at the success rates of the aftercare programs currently in place? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 80-15(6): Alcohol Treatment Aftercare Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know this is a sensitive issue and a very critical one in the Northwest Territories. This area is going to continue to be a problem, as we heard the Members speak about this issue today. I can go into a long process on my personal experience, but rather than that, I will go into some of the work we have done and what we are trying to do. There has been work done by previous governments as well as the Department of Health and Social Services working around how our programs are working. We have heard it, as I sat on the other side of the floor, from the social programs side, heard about how our programs are ineffective. When the government was going through downsizing, we are losing facilities. The question came around, should we build facilities or should we invest in people? We have worked through a number of organizations again with NGOs and Members to try to come up with a process that would work. We believe investing in people is going to make a difference. While we haven't, as of recently, gone into each community to look if our Aftercare Program is working. What we have is, through a number of efforts, try to look at the whole program area from start to finish and hopefully to full recovery of individuals. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 80-15(6): Alcohol Treatment Aftercare Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the program delivery in communities, there is always room for improvements. The current system may not be enough. It may not be working for the communities. As a follow-up, would the Minister consider working with the communities to develop better strategies and programs such as aftercare programs to deal with addictions and investing in people as the Minister puts it? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 80-15(6): Alcohol Treatment Aftercare Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we are working with communities. In fact, in March of this year, there was a group that met to review our progress on our core service plan in the mental health and addictions area. New direction has been given for the next five years that we drafted. Hopefully by mid-summer, we can look at how we would proceed from here. We are working with Health and Social Services authorities, NGOs, aboriginal groups and other stakeholders to come up with a new direction in this area. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 80-15(6): Alcohol Treatment Aftercare Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Just to conclude my question for the Minister, I would like to focus on the next step. Can the Minister commit to providing resources necessary to deal with these community-based strategies? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 80-15(6): Alcohol Treatment Aftercare Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has been investing substantially in this area in talking about investing in people. For example, in 2006-2007, up to 77 positions or \$6.6 million in funding to support the delivery of counselling programs in Health and Social Services authorities. That means 45 community wellness workers, 24 mental health and addiction counsellors, as well as eight clinical supervisors. We are working on putting the package together through the Chalmer's report, through the Stay the Course report that followed up on that and working with committee and NGO stakeholders. We are moving down this path towards improving the system.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, it is going to start in the home as individuals make their decisions. We can come up with the programming, but if people don't take that initial step to get help...We are there to offer them help once they take that step, but we need them to realize they need to take that step. Thank you.

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

Question 81-15(6): Information Available On The GNWT PeopleSoft Human Resources System

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. If there was personal information including leave balances, salaries and social insurance

numbers of MLAs and, in fact, of GNWT employees viewable through a PeopleSoft system which all GNWT employees had access to, I would like to know from the Minister if that occurred. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 81-15(6): Information Available On The GNWT PeopleSoft Human Resources System

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

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

Supplementary To Question 81-15(6): Information Available On The GNWT PeopleSoft Human Resources System

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: So, Mr. Speaker, then the Minister is denying that it was not possible for a casual employee at the Department of Health and Social Services to have access to MLAs' personal information at any time?

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

Further Return To Question 81-15(6): Information Available On The GNWT PeopleSoft Human Resources System

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge, that has never happened. If it has happened, it hasn't been formally transmitted to the department so that we are aware of it.

Had something like that come to our attention, it would have been an issue that would have been a very serious concern and followed up.

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

Supplementary To Question 81-15(6): Information Available On The GNWT PeopleSoft Human Resources System

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this day and age of all the attention to identity theft, if there was a breach of security on the PeopleSoft system, which would contain personal information about MLAs and Government of the Northwest Territories employees, what would be the protocol of the Department of Human Resources to ensure those people were notified of that breach? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 81-15(6): Information Available On The GNWT PeopleSoft Human Resources System

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if we have run into a situation like that. I don't know what the exact protocol would be, but you can be assured that we would consider it to be a serious event and one that we would follow up on. But at this point, we have never been advised. In the past, I have heard rumours like the one that the Member has talked about. Every time we tried to follow up on it, we have never been able to find that it actually happened.

At this point, we don't actually believe that it has happened. If it is found to be otherwise, there will be a very serious review of the situation.

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

Question 82-15(6): Impact Of IT Centralization On The Private Sector

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister of Public Works and Services. It is in regards to an issue I raised in the last session about the concern brought to me about the negative impact on small businesses in the IT sector that had been impacted by the formation of the TSC. There was significant market disruption and things didn't balance out the way they were supposed to of no impact. The Minister indicated that they would do a review and see what the impact was, if any, and share those results. The Minister did promise it by April that he would give us a status of that undertaking. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Krutko.

Return To Question 82-15(6): Impact Of IT Centralization On The Private Sector

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been working along with the Department of FMBS in regards to having this review overtaken by the office of the chief information officer because there may be a perceived conflict by way of us doing an investigation on ourselves. So it is being undertaken by the Financial Management Board Secretariat.

Again, I know I did commit to the Member that I would try and get back to him by April. Again, the work is ongoing because it is a comprehensive review. Also, we are trying to compare the information with other industrial trends across the country to make sure that we are implementing similar arrangements to ensure that we are fair. We are also trying work along with the people within the different industries.

Again, it is ongoing. We are working with the Department of FMBS on this matter.

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

Supplementary To Question 82-15(6): Impact Of IT Centralization On The Private Sector

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate to the House when he anticipates this ongoing work will be completed so that we can see the results hopefully before the end of the life of this Assembly? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 82-15(6): Impact Of IT Centralization On The Private Sector

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, the office of the chief information officer is undertaking this. They are doing a performance evaluation and ensuring that the plan and assessment of the program is completed. They are telling me that they should have something back by the end of July. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 82-15(6): Impact Of IT Centralization On The Private Sector

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he would commit to sharing that work or report with the Members so that we can see what the impact is and what the results of that long labour has been by these various officials. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 82-15(6): Impact Of IT Centralization On The Private Sector

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, the normal protocol allows me to ensure that Cabinet sees it first before we release it, but I do not believe that will be a problem. So once Cabinet has seen it and approved the release, we will get it to the Member. Thank you.

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

Question 83-15(6): Regional Alcohol And Drug Treatment Centres

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I spoke a couple times talking about investing in people. Investing in people could also mean investing into a proper treatment centre with some good aftercare programs. I'd like to ask the Minister if he's aware of any long-term plans to establish treatment centres in some of the regions. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 83-15(6): Regional Alcohol And Drug Treatment Centres

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department itself is not aware of formal proposals out there. I am aware that there is some work going on in the Beaufort-Delta region around the issue of trying to set up a wellness facility through the Gwich'in. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 83-15(6): Regional Alcohol And Drug Treatment Centres

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we listen to the people of the Northwest Territories and they tell us that they feel that there is a need for treatment centres in the region. Yet we get a \$97,000 report called Stay the Course recommending no need for treatment centres. I'd like to ask this government and the Minister, who are we listening to? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 83-15(6): Regional Alcohol And Drug Treatment Centres

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're listening to a number of people. It's always good to seek input from a broad spectrum of people, whether it's NGOs, Health and Social Services authorities, as well as hiring specialists from time to time. The

Member is right; in 2002 a contract was issued and the report received on the State of Emergency that was identified around this area and, further to that, further review was done and used the same business as the Member stated correctly; Stay the Course was the other report. We've been working with that and with NGOs throughout the territory to come up with a process of care of what we can do as a government to try to ensure we're helping those that need the help and ask for it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 83-15(6): Regional Alcohol And Drug Treatment Centres

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I'd like to say we have to listen to the people that live it front line and deal with it, and those are the people we should be listening to. The Gwich'in and the Nihtat Gwich'in have been putting together a camp to identify and deal with the problem. I'd like to ask the Minister, what would they have to do to secure some program dollars from the government? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 83-15(6): Regional Alcohol And Drug Treatment Centres

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, the department has worked with NGOs, we've worked with aboriginal organizations and come up with a plan of trying to invest in communities and people that would help with the programming. There's nothing stopping other groups or groups out there who want to become more involved. We think it's a good thing that groups get involved directly with their people about how we can try and help provide a level of service that is, overall, a stronger one. So proposals can be worked with or brought into the health and social services authorities at the initial stage. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 83-15(6): Regional Alcohol And Drug Treatment Centres

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know that prevention is the best tool for dealing with alcohol abuse, but there's always going to be alcohol abuse no matter what and a lot of these people continue to try to go for treatment. A lot of them have to leave home. They come back and I'd like to ask the Minister if he knows, or is aware, of a mechanism in place when they return to their home communities to monitor them after a 28-day treatment session? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 83-15(6): Regional Alcohol And Drug Treatment Centres

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's a number of activities, and again, with trying to work with community groups and how we can deal with that, I'd have to get the specifics of a well or Aftercare Program as has been looked at. The government has done aftercare programs. Usually that goes back out to another facility or working with a group. We're trying to deal with the on-the-land process, as well. So we're looking at a number of options or continuing to try to improve the way we work and deal with the alcohol addiction and Aftercare Program. Thank you.

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

Question 84-15(6): Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources with regards to an area just east of Lutselk'e that is a unique, sheltered oasis within the Arctic tundra region. It is rich in wildlife, contains the Beverly caribou calving grounds, it's rich in fauna, and unfortunately it's also rich in uranium. There's also been a real long, 13-year, planning process that's been in the works since October 1994 into a management plan. The area I'm talking about is the Thelon Game Sanctuary, Mr. Speaker. The Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan has been worked on for a number of years and has also been approved in principle by the Lutselk'e First Nations, the Akaitcho Government, the Government of Nunavut, Government of Canada, the KIA, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, many stakeholders and interest groups that have been working diligently for years to get this plan, move this plan into action. I just want to know why this government has been the only interest group and stakeholder that hasn't formally approved this management plan to date. Can the Minister give me a status on that? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 84-15(6): Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Thelon Management Plan is something that has been supported by this government. There's been a lot of work that's been done, as the Member has indicated. There's been consultations with many parties, many governments that are impacted by this plan and that support it or, in some cases, there's governments that are requesting to have a seat at the table for discussion. Some requests have come forward recently that we're considering and we're having those discussions and we'll decide how to move forward following that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 84-15(6): Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, you know, like I stated earlier, the basic proponents and the people that are most affected by this management plan and should have the most input have approved this plan in principle. The longer we wait, the more people are going to come forward and say they should have a seat at this management committee for the Thelon Game Sanctuary when the Thelon Game Sanctuary doesn't even cross their borders or go into their areas. I would encourage that this Minister maybe who arranged the meeting in Lutselk'e just this last February, Mr. Speaker, just to reaffirm that the parties are still in approval in principle of the plan. Apparently they are and they're just kind of wondering who is going to give the approval. Is it the Minister's office or do they need Cabinet approval? Whose approval do they need at the end of the day? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 84-15(6): Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to ensure that we have all the people that have an interest in this area and this sanctuary have a say in it. There has been a process out there. Some aboriginal governments have indicated to us that they have a desire to speak to the issue. We want to take the opportunity to hear them out and decide what our next steps are going to be, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 84-15(6): Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess for the interest of the Akaitcho First Nations, the Lutselk'e First Nations and probably the Nunavut Government, could the Minister tell us who are these other interest groups and why do they want a seat on this management board all of a sudden? This has been in the works for 13 years and why are they only coming forward now when the plan is in next to the final stage of approval, Mr. Speaker? Why did we wait so long to hear from them and who are we waiting for? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 84-15(6): Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a number of representatives that come to the table to discuss this plan and that includes the governments that the Member has mentioned: the Lutselk'e council and the Akaitcho territory and Deninu Kue First Nations. There's other jurisdictions in Saskatchewan and there's also the NWT Metis that have indicated they want to speak to this issue. So there are a number of things that we're looking at so that before we can vote on it, we need to make sure we have all the information. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 84-15(6): Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I get the Minister to come forward with some indication to the proponents who, to my knowledge, have already approved the plan in principle of who we are waiting for to come forward to give their interest or state what their claim and interest in this management area? If they are totally legitimate, I don't see why not, but if they're really not that legitimate and we've been working on this thing for 13 years now, Mr. Speaker, so you know, why can't we just approve, because this is just a plan in principle. So why can't we just move forward with that and move along with some action on the management? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 84-15(6): Thelon Game Sanctuary Management Plan

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NWT Metis Nation is the primary government that has come forward lately. The other issue that has, I guess, caused us to take a second look at this is the process that we're going to use. Is it a protected area strategy that we're going to be pursuing? So we're

kind of taking a step back, but at the same time there is another government that has come forward and asked us to speak to us. So we'd like to do that prior to moving forward.

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

Question 85-15(6): Awareness And Avoidance Of Alcohol Abuse

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a couple of questions of the Minister of Health and Social Services and it relates to the, as I said in my statement, the crushing burden of alcohol abuse in our society. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister just what emphasis does our current Addictions Strategy place on awareness and avoidance of alcohol abuse?

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

Return To Question 85-15(6): Awareness And Avoidance Of Alcohol Abuse

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, by far, in this point in time, we spend the majority of our resources dealing with the after effects of alcoholism and abuse in our communities in the Northwest Territories. The department has recently undergone a new direction of, as stated in this House by Mr. Miltenberger, a 1 percent target at this point targeted towards the prevention side, along with the awareness campaign that the department is undertaking. So we're starting to look at further investments in the prevention side. By far, if we can get to our children at a young age, we can make a huge difference at that point. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 85-15(6): Awareness And Avoidance Of Alcohol Abuse

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, and I think all other Members are very supportive of the financial resources going into it. It's the methodology, the programs, the approach that we're taking that has really piqued my interest, Mr. Speaker. We know that, for instance, the National Association of Friendship Centres, of which there are several affiliates here in the NWT, is shifting its program direction toward awareness. There are many other organizations, the Salvation Army, the Centre for NWT Families, that are front-line organizations. Are we partnering with them? Are we looking to harness their resources along with ours as we take on this campaign, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 85-15(6): Awareness And Avoidance Of Alcohol Abuse

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, along with all the partners that help in the delivery of a number of programs, health authorities as well as NGOs, we continue to work in partnership where we can with program direction. We seek input on where we're going. For example, I discussed the Territorial Advisory Group that met in March and that group is looking at the core service plan and looking at the direction over the next five years. We've worked with the health authorities, NGOs, aboriginal groups and stakeholders to look at that new direction where we can continue to try and improve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 85-15(6): Awareness And Avoidance Of Alcohol Abuse

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, have we developed, along with these partners or in any context, any kind of targets or objectives that we want to try to achieve over a given period of time that would show that we're actually getting somewhere, that we're actually making some results? What are the targets and the objectives, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 85-15(6): Awareness And Avoidance Of Alcohol Abuse

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this area would be a very difficult one to try to measure. We could have numerous programs. I'm aware of individuals that have gone into programs maybe seven times before they finally were able to get on with their lives and leave the alcohol behind. That's something that's hard to measure. Some would say after a number of entries in a program it should be done, get on with it. But when at the seventh time that individual turned their life around and was a positive role model then for their family, is that too late or is that adequate? That becomes very difficult to measure. As we proceed with these programs, one of the overall ones I guess we'd look at is the overall reduction of alcohol consumption in the Northwest Territories would be one of the measures, and try to measure where we're going. So that would be difficult. We're working again with groups across the North. One of the other ones that's recently been undertaken, a discussion paper on territorial alcohol and drug programs, balancing community and residential services is one of the papers we're working on within the department and our health authorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 86-15(6): GNWT Summer Student Employment Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask questions to the Minister of Human Resources and it's in regards to the Minister's statement he made yesterday about the summer student employment. Mr. Speaker, the Minister stated that in 2006 the GNWT provided employment to 343 summer students, and as of this week 195 students have been hired. I want to ask the Minister whether or not the number of student employment positions available has been reduced this year, because on the streets parents and university students are suggesting that government is not hiring as many summer students. A while back I think we all received an e-mail from HR -- I think it's a public e-mail -- where there was a list of university students or students in post-secondary education who are still looking for jobs and it was quite numerous. It was either indicating we have a lot of students who are in school or there are lots of students who are not able to find jobs. So can I ask the Minister whether there has been a reduction in the number of positions available? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 86-15(6): GNWT Summer Student Employment Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as we're aware at Human Resources, the numbers of jobs have not been reduced. Of course, we're not always aware of what jobs or positions departments are looking to fill. The Progressive Experience Program and the Relevant Experience Program are both being funded to the same degree and the same level of support as in previous years. So we would think that departments would find a way to hire a similar number of students. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 86-15(6): GNWT Summer Student Employment Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister indicated as far as he was aware. Could I ask the Minister to confirm whether or not there have been a reduction of positions available for summer students? Because the Minister has indicated in his statement yesterday only 195 students have been hired so far. This is the end of May. Summer students are usually hired around this time and we're not anywhere near meeting the numbers of last year at 343. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 86-15(6): GNWT Summer Student Employment Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are constantly in communication with departments to advise them that we have summer students available and looking for work and encouraging them to hire students where available. The government, through HR, provides support through some programs to help departments take on students. There are 90 students supported through the Progressive Experience Program, and for health students the Relevant Experience Program doesn't have a set limit to it. It's up to the students to apply who are interested in the health care field. But we'll certainly canvas departments to see whether or not there is some issue around hiring. I don't believe there is. The numbers that I've quoted in my statement were for the end of the summer that that number of students have been hired. Not all students get four months worth of employment and not all departments are looking for somebody for an entire 15 or 16 weeks. Some of the positions that are available may only be for nine or 10 or 11 weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 86-15(6): GNWT Summer Student Employment Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the past, the government provided funding for private sectors to hire summer students. I'm just wondering if that's included in the progressive employment or the other category that the Minister mentioned that I can't remember. Can the Minister indicate as to what assistance is available for the private sector to hire summer students? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 86-15(6): GNWT Summer Student Employment Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Progressive Experience Program and the Relevant Experience Program provide funding to departments and to boards and agencies that are involved in working with the government, health boards, etcetera. For instance, Yellowknife Health and Social Services does get funding in order to support students. But there is no program right now that subsidizes student summer employment for the private sector.

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

Supplementary To Question 86-15(6): GNWT Summer Student Employment Program

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly was a beneficiary of really good paying government jobs that afforded me to go to school so I don't want to deprive that to any other students, but there is a general sentiment that if we were to reduce the wages paid to summer students in government, it could help to hire more students and make it more competitive for the private sector to use some of these students. Maybe a way to make this possible is to make more funding available to the private sector to hire students; not at the same wage level, but a comparable level. Could I ask the Minister to undertake to see ways to increase the number of student jobs available in the public and private sector for the coming years? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 86-15(6): GNWT Summer Student Employment Program

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It isn't possible for us to offer jobs at a lesser salary; we have the requirements for equal pay for work of equal value and we can't try and get around that without it impacting on our public service. So we could always look at and examine different ways of doing it, but it would appear, from the raw numbers, that the private sector has become more attractive to the summer students. In 2003, 1,600 students registered for summer jobs. The government hired 343 that year, the same as it did last year when we had only 700 registered. This year, to date, we've only had 600 students register looking for jobs with the GNWT. So it appears, Mr. Speaker, that the private sector is taking up a good deal of the slack and employing more of our summer students.

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

Question 87-15(6): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement-In-Principle

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the past week and a half we have heard from the Premier in terms of a position that was taken by this government for aboriginal groups, the land claim groups, and the Northwest Territories Metis group have come together and signed the AIP with our territorial government. Just about an hour ago, I read a press release from the grand chief of the Dehcho, Mr. Herb Norwegian, on his comments and his views as to this AIP on the resource revenue sharing and devolution. Does this position taken by the grand chief hurt the AIP and resource revenue sharing deal and devolution by this government? I want to ask the Premier that. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 87-15(6): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement-In-Principle

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The short answer is no, this does not affect it at all. The four aboriginal organizations, governments, and our government have signed the deal and I think it sends a strong signal to Ottawa that if we work in solidarity on our positions and we want a share of those resource revenues as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 87-15(6): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement-In-Principle

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly applaud the leadership of the Sahtu, the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit and the Metis for taking a stand on this important issue that we've been talking about for so many years. So, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Premier, does the Premier have anything to report on the negotiations with the Tlicho and the Akaitcho? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 87-15(6): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement-In-Principle

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm assuming the Member is referring to negotiations on an agreement-in-principle about the bigger issues or on land use and so on. But, Mr. Speaker, no, I don't have anything specific to report. There was a briefing provided to the Akaitcho people last week, the Akaitcho leaders. The chiefs there, again, the same as with Dehcho, have taken a position that they would like to negotiate their own deal; they feel they can do better on their own. Certainly there is nothing that our government is doing to try to frustrate that. If they feel they can do better on their own, then I wish them well in doing that. At the same time, some of us have chosen the path of working as a team together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 87-15(6): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement-In-Principle

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, as the Northwest Territories our regional government bodies have worked hard to support each other and to get the best deal they can for that time, of that time, within their region. I want to ask the Premier, did Chief Norwegian indicate any type of indication as to what type of terms that he would be willing to look at to make it acceptable for him to sign on to the resource revenue sharing and devolution agreement? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 87-15(6): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement-In-Principle

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For sure, I cannot speak for Grand Chief Herb Norwegian. I mean, I'm not 100 percent clear what the deal would be that he would find acceptable. Mr. Speaker, I can say that whenever we come to an agreement like this, there will always be people who feel that a better deal could have been gotten if we had done something differently. That's always the case. My view is that this is a good deal. If it

goes through from current agreement-in-principle status to final agreement, then I think this is a deal that gives us a lot more than what we'd get today, for sure. Is it the best deal that's possible? Is it possible to get a better deal? Possibly. I don't know. But all of us know that at some point we have to make a decision and move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 87-15(6): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement-In-Principle

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Premier here in terms of the people in the Sahtu have signed on to this deal. I've spoken to the chairperson of the Sahtu Secretariat; they feel it's a good deal. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Premier, what is he giving in terms of reassurance to our people who signed on to this deal that this is a good deal for us? Let's not sit around and sit on our hands and criticize other leaders for going and signing on. This is a good deal for the people in the Sahtu and I stand strongly to this signature. What will the Premier do to help people in the Sahtu in terms of Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and the Metis Nation to say we're going ahead and it's a good deal?

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

Further Return To Question 87-15(6): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement-In-Principle

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I will never criticize those who choose to take a different path. That's their choice and if they go along that path and find that they get a better deal, then, as I say, you know, good luck to them; I hope they can do it. Mr. Speaker, on the other hand, the arrangements, the agreement-in-principle we've signed with the three land claim groups and the Metis is one that is open and, at times, if people want to join on, they can join on and sign up too, if they choose to go that path.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to continue working with those who have signed the deal on the basis of the deal, the agreement-in-principle we signed. I have already forwarded it to Minister Prentice. He wanted time to have a look at it and consider it. The next step, in my view, is to try to get a meeting between those leaders who have signed on and myself, a joint meeting with Minister Prentice and plan out the path to follow from here. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Prentice has indicated that he is sharing this with the federal negotiator, so I think it is moving a big step forward. Mr. Speaker, I got calls today, as well, from the leaders, expressing concern and saying, look, we've got to keep on moving here, we're on this, it's a good deal and let's move forward, not stall.

---Applause

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

Question 88-15(6): Contract For GNWT Employee Assistance Plan

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Northstar is a local organization that, as of recently, used to offer assistance to our employees through the Employee Family Assistance Program. They lost the contract and, Mr. Speaker, sometimes it's a reality that comes to the competitive bid process. However, they lost it to a southern firm, a national firm that, in my opinion,

misrepresented themselves with key information that I believe underpins their bid. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Human Resources who is truly aware of this issue and the circumstances under what's going on. Mr. Speaker, is it a practice of this government to honour contracts with organizations that underpin their information to win a bid with false information? Is it a practice that we honour that contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 88-15(6): Contract For GNWT Employee Assistance Plan

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not certain that this could be characterized as a situation where information was false. There was an issue with one of the subcontractors being included in the initial response to the RFP who should not have been included. That was an issue, but it was explained as an inadvertent mistake and the company has apologized for that inclusion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. I'll caution Members to not be bringing up outfits or individuals that aren't here to defend themselves. I'll allow the supplementary question, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 88-15(6): Contract For GNWT Employee Assistance Plan

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate that. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the firm that's offering this program offers competent programs but, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that they misrepresented themselves and the Minister doesn't seem to characterize false information or misrepresentation as a no-no. Mr. Speaker, what investigation has the Minister done to ensure that this was either the only issue or what other issues may have arisen? Because if you're putting in a proposal that is not full and true, this government should not be honouring it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 88-15(6): Contract For GNWT Employee Assistance Plan

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had the process reviewed by the BIP office at ITI. I've had the process reviewed by the Department of Justice and by Public Works. The advice that we have received is that we should continue with awarding the contract, or the contract should stand as awarded. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 88-15(6): Contract For GNWT Employee Assistance Plan

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Minister is quite accurate on all that information, but I'll tell you, the public opinion of what seems to be right and wrong sometimes dances a different line and to a different tune than maybe what legally may be correct. I'll tell you, people out there would think that folks providing false information on a competitive tender is wrong. I do. So, Mr. Speaker, what is the Minister doing to address this ethical question that seems to be overlooked? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 88-15(6): Contract For GNWT Employee Assistance Plan

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said, the process was reviewed by three agencies of government and we have been advised that we really have no other recourse than to ensure that, while the contract is being delivered, we are vigilant in ensuring that the terms offered by the current contractor are lived up to. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 88-15(6): Contract For GNWT Employee Assistance Plan

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, let's be honest; we're not talking about a typo here; we're talking about a company that misrepresents themselves with false information by saying we will offer a service by bringing forward this professional who's competent. Mr. Speaker, I think we're really down to an ethical question that the Minister should be asking himself. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister go back and review this and do the right decision by pulling back this contract and reissuing a fair tender; therefore, we have all the facts on the table and the most honest and fair process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 88-15(6): Contract For GNWT Employee Assistance Plan

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue has been reviewed quite thoroughly. As I've said, we've had it looked at by the Department of Justice, by the Department of Public Works and by the BIP monitoring office at ITI and we are following their advice, which is to ensure that we monitor very closely the performance of the current contractor to ensure that they are living up to the terms of the contract. Thank you.

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

Question 89-15(6): Public Information Campaign To Denormalize Alcohol Abuse

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make it short. We've been talking about the theme of denormalizing the use of alcohol and in the past there are so many different aspects to this issue, but I'd like to ask the Minister of Health whether or not the government will undertake a concerted effort to come up with a campaign to denormalize abuse of alcohol in a way that the successful Don't Be a Butthead campaign has been able to do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 89-15(6): Public Information Campaign To Denormalize Alcohol Abuse

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for that question and would say, yes, we would put an effort into coming up with a campaign that would draw attention to what the impacts of drug and alcohol abuse is in the Northwest Territories. As well, Mr. Speaker, if I can, earlier I talked about a discussion paper, the NWT Alcohol and Drug Program's Balancing Community and Residential Services. Just for the record, that was initiated back a couple of years ago

and that discussion paper was shared with the Health and Social Services Authority in 2006 and was used for them in looking at how we delivered the programs in communities. The feedback we had with authorities, we shared with Members. As well, there are quite a number of areas that we're involved with in the drug and alcohol area, and one of them is developing an awareness campaign that we're continuing to work on with our partners. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 89-15(6): Public Information Campaign To Denormalize Alcohol Abuse

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the key to this is that it has to be focussed, easy to understand, concerted, and it has to be well-resourced; there has to be big money behind that. It has to be community-based; it has to be undertaken by people in communities and every community has to be able to make their own choice about how to deal with it and get totally involved. We also, I think, I believe in communities where there are no RCMP, I think having an alcohol and drug control officer who could enforce the laws that are already in the books about prohibition and control of alcohol and drug substances will go a long way. Could I ask the Minister to put some oomph behind this and then how he's going to work on a slogan? I mean, like we...

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

Further Return To Question 89-15(6): Public Information Campaign To Denormalize Alcohol Abuse

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we'll definitely try to put some oomph behind our...

---Laughter

...our message. I heard a number of things raised in this House that seem like the beginning of good slogans that we talked about, Don't be a Boozehound, Don't be Stuck in the Bottleneck, or something of that nature. But seriously there are quite a number of factors and one of the big areas that I touched was a territorial advisory group that met in March, and we'll look and we'll follow up with consultation with our authorities as well as NGOs, aboriginal groups and stakeholders. I spoke earlier about the Community Counselling Program, tied to that is our partnership with Keyano College on the community wellness worker training. One big piece, Mr. Speaker, and we talked about youth and children, is building resiliency in children and youth. That's Friends for Life resiliency training that's targeted at children and youth, as well as the Youth Net Program, and that's a by-youth, for-youth mental health promotion area; as well as a number of areas and again developing an awareness campaign around addictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 89-15(6): Public Information Campaign To Denormalize Alcohol Abuse

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is doing something that this government gets criticized for, which is that people out there don't see that this government is taking this issue seriously or that there is a clear, precise and simple, or easy to understand message about what we are doing that will tie together all of the enforcement activities...

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have a question, Ms. Lee?

MS. LEE: ...capacity. So would the Minister commit to coming up with a focussed strategy by August?

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

Further Return To Question 89-15(6): Public Information Campaign To Denormalize Alcohol Abuse

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this program, as I had stated earlier, we're working through the Territorial Advisory Group, again, in consultation with all of those that I talked about that we will work with and we will develop a program. I'm expecting to see something by mid-summer in this area so, hopefully, enjoying our last sitting of this Assembly I'll be able to share information on where that's going. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The time for question period has expired. Do you have a final supplementary, Ms. Lee? Thank you. Written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

ITEM 8: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two written questions. With all this talk about the Deh Cho Bridge, it's caused me to come up with two here today.

Written Question 7-15(6): Impact Of Deh Cho Bridge On Public Service Allowances

My question is for the Minister of Human Resources.

1. How will the Deh Cho Bridge specifically impact the northern allowances paid to the GNWT's public service?
2. What specific impact will the Deh Cho Bridge have on isolated post allowances and other benefits paid to Government of Canada employees in the Northwest Territories?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 8-15(6): Beaufort-Delta Clients Attending Alcohol And Drug Treatment Centres

MR. MCLEOD: My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

1. Please provide information on the numbers of clients from the Beaufort-Delta region who attended alcohol and drug treatment centres outside of the region.
2. Please provide information on the amount of money spent on these clients to travel outside of the region to receive alcohol and drug treatment.

Thank you.

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

Written Question 9-15(6): Norman Wells Natural Gas Supply

MR. YAKELEYA: My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

1. Can the Minister provide me with a list of meetings his department has had with the federal government, Imperial Oil and other GNWT departments regarding

the imminent gas supply shortage in Norman Wells? Please include the dates of these meetings and a synopsis of the discussions.

2. Can the Minister outline avenues his department has identified on how the residents of Norman Wells can be compensated for the conversion of household appliances including the feasibility of wind and solar power conversions?
3. Can the Minister provide an analysis of the 19434 Norman Wells Proven Area Agreement for possible implications with regards to the pending termination of natural gas service in Norman Wells?

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

Written Question 10-15(6): Income Security Program Treatment Of Impact Benefit Compensation

MR. VILLENEUVE: My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

1. Can the Minister provide a copy of the legal opinion on income benefit agreement payments that stipulates IBA payments should be considered as earned Income for income security clients?
2. Was this an independent legal opinion or an opinion provided by GNWT legal counsel?
3. How do IBA distribution payments differ from the Inuvialuit regional agreement distribution payments?
4. Why is the IBA distribution payment not considered an integral part of the land claims process by income security?

Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. Petitions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 11: PETITIONS

Petition 2-15(6): The Abuse Of Alcohol In The Community Of Tulita

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the abuse of alcohol in the community of Tulita. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 40 signatures of Tulita residents. Mr. Speaker, the petition requests that amendments be made to the territorial legislation to better control the availability of sale and distribution of alcohol.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Petitions. Reports of standing and special committees. Reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 13: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to this Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, and wishes to report that Bill 5 is now ready for Committee of the Whole.

Motion To Move Bill 5 Into Committee Of The Whole For Wednesday, May 16, 2007, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 5 be moved into Committee of the Whole for Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 5 will be moved into Committee of the Whole for tomorrow. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 27-15(6): Territorial Granular Resource Forecast Report: The Territorial Granular Strategy

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Territorial Granular Resource Forecast Report: The Territorial Granular Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 7-15(6): Denormalizing Alcohol And Enforcing Restrictions

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that, on Thursday, May 17, 2007, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government establish a strategy to denormalize alcohol abuse; and further that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government ensure communities have adequate resources to enforce liquor laws including restrictions and prohibitions; and furthermore that this Legislative Assembly urges concerned community members, leaders and law enforcement authorities to work together to enforce restrictions and prohibition on alcohol and other liquor laws.

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

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion that I have given notice of earlier today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion she gave notice of earlier today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may deal with your motion, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 17: MOTIONS

Motion 7-15(6): Denormalizing Alcohol And Enforcing Restrictions, Carried

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS alcoholism and alcohol abuse are devastating individuals, families and communities across the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS alcohol was a confirmed factor in over 42 percent of suicides and accidental deaths in the Northwest Territories between 2002 and 2005;

AND WHEREAS excessive alcohol consumption is associated with serious health consequences including high blood pressure and several cancers often contributing to premature death;

AND WHEREAS up to 30 percent of NWT women report drinking during pregnancy, putting their unborn children at risk of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder;

AND WHEREAS alcohol abuse is a factor in a large proportion of crimes, family violence incidents and child welfare cases;

AND WHEREAS alcohol abuse prevents many northerners from succeeding in education and employment and achieving financial self-reliance;

AND WHEREAS the effects of alcohol abuse are resulting in substantial and unsustainable costs to government health, justice and education programs;

AND WHEREAS the 2006 NWT Addictions Strategy reports that the number of current drinkers who typically consume more than five drinks per occasion is 36 per cent overall and 53 per cent for persons aged 15 to 24;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has successfully implemented a strategy to denormalize tobacco;

AND WHEREAS elders and community members who have overcome alcohol addiction can serve as role models for youth;

AND WHEREAS some NWT communities have put in place restrictions or prohibitions on alcohol;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government establish a strategy to denormalize alcohol abuse;

AND FURTHER that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government ensure communities have adequate resources to enforce liquor laws including restrictions and prohibitions;

AND FURTHERMORE that this Legislative Assembly urges concerned community members, leaders and law enforcement authorities to work together to enforce restrictions and prohibition on alcohol and other liquor laws.

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, the idea of drawing attention to the issue of alcohol abuse and bringing it up by way of a theme day in the Legislature today and then following that this motion is being brought forward by the Members was decided on, or the idea was contemplated, in the previous Assembly as Members of this House are keenly aware, and have talked many times amongst ourselves, about the devastating effects of alcohol abuse on our communities, families and many friends.

Mr. Speaker, the denormalization of alcohol, the reason why we put it in that context is because, personally, I am afraid that we have become too accustomed to the plight and the misery, in many cases, of people who have become involved with alcohol and then are addicted to it and, in fact, in many instances, it just takes over their life. It permeates every aspect of their life and has many consequences for themselves, their families and for the people around them.

The excessive use of alcohol impairs people's judgement. They do things they wouldn't normally do. I was talking to someone the other day. I said, what would ever possess people knowing the consequences of something like crack cocaine to ever take that first chance and take that first hit of crack cocaine? What would ever allow people who are in their right minds to do something like that? This person pointed out, well, they didn't do it when they were cold sober, necessarily. They were probably in a bar and they probably had a few drinks and they probably weren't thinking clearly. But that, unfortunately, is the case for so many risky and devastating activities that people become involved in. People's judgement is impaired. They go out on the land. They go hunting. They go fishing. They get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. They get in accidents. All kinds of people who are of sound mind, who would never dream of taking risks, all of a sudden, under the influence of alcohol, will engage in activities that could result in very negative consequences for them and quite often death of young people in the Northwest Territories.

These same people under the influence of alcohol cannot think clearly about consequences such as practising unsafe sex, which leads to our astronomical reports of sexually transmitted diseases and potential spread of HIV/AIDS and all of these things which come to our attention through the statistics that are reported about the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that there is a responsible consumption of alcohol, as well. This motion is not intended to condemn anyone. This is just to arrest ourselves and say look at what alcohol is doing to the North and look at what alcohol is doing to our people. Of course there are those who consume alcohol responsibly, but many times in order to take a stand or to be the example or to set an example for our children, sometimes we would have to say, well, you know, it might be a sacrifice, but that is a sacrifice we will be willing to make to send a strong message to set an example for a younger person or for someone that may be watching us as role models.

As a government, we want the best for our constituents. We want better education programs. We want the best health care. We want the best housing programs. We want the best of everything for our constituents. One of the things that is consuming a tremendous amount of our financial resources is the money we expend to address the aftermath of alcohol abuse. I can only imagine what we would be able to do with those financial resources if we did not have to expend so much of our time, energy and money trying to deal with these outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, I know the other Members are going to have a lot of very valuable things to add on this, so I don't think I will go on about it any longer. I thank the Members for standing together today on this issue and telling the people in the North that we recognize there is a problem and together we need to find solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join the colleagues here and second this very important motion. Mr. Speaker, I speak not only as a Member of this Legislature, but also as someone who has experienced the negative effects of alcohol abuse and what that can do to a family, and also as someone who has supported someone to a very successful road to recovery from alcoholism. Also, I speak as somebody who, like the Member for Hay River South and everyone else here, has suffered from the negative impacts of alcohol on our people.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is useful to show that we are not the only place in Canada that is suffering from alcohol abuse. In fact, this is a national epidemic. In a recent article in the media on the website, it says that, in 2005, Canadians down the equivalent of 7.9 litres of pure alcohol for every drinker and teetotaler over age 15. I am told by Mr. Miltenberger that a teetotaler means a non-drinker. Mr. Speaker, Canadians consume 30 percent more alcohol than the world average. All I know is somebody is drinking my 7.9 litres because I don't drink that.

Mr. Speaker, the social cost of our lifestyle and drinking is becoming more popular in the recent years is staggering. The social cost in Canada is \$14.6 billion in 2002. The healthcare bill alone is \$3.3 billion, higher than the price tag to treat cancer. Mr. Speaker, we spend 1.6 million days in the hospital because of illnesses and accidents caused by people under the influence of alcohol. For the first time, more people died from liver sclerosis, regarded as a benchmark of a country's problem drinking, than on the road in drunken car crashes, Mr. Speaker. Yet governments all over treat alcohol like a gold mine, with policies that encourage us to drink and even handicap the struggle for sobriety once people become addicted.

Mr. Speaker, in 2005, 79.3 percent of Canadians confessed to drinking which, contrary to our growing obsession with fitness and diet, is a nearly 10 percent jump from a decade ago. But the fact is this only amounts to 30 percent of alcohol sold, so we are not even telling the truth about what we are drinking.

Mr. Speaker, we always think that drinking heavily is a response to problems, but the studies show, in fact, we drink in hard times and we drink in good times. In the province of Alberta where it is topping all of the economic indicators, drinking and alcohol consumption has gone up by 13 percent. This reports that alcohol is near and dear to people's hearts. It is Canada's drug of choice, without a question. It is legal and promoted. We are inculcated to use it. People defend their use of it. Mr. Speaker, that is why we need to denormalize use and abuse of alcohol. It is a lot more difficult to do that with alcohol because alcohol is not illegal. It is not the same thing as smoking, which we were able to say just cut it out 100 percent and no compromise. With alcohol, we know that some people are able to do that more responsibly, but I think we all think that we could do it responsibly and we don't understand the problems associated with that.

Mr. Speaker, also, the latest studies show that even breast cancer and colorectal cancer are contributed by alcohol abuse. It is not just liver sclerosis, throat cancer and some of the more clear items. A casual drink of two a day for women would increase chances of getting breast

cancer by 13 percent. But Ottawa and provinces, and probably this territory too, is addicted to getting taxes from liquor sales.

Mr. Speaker, it has become a practice for us and it is very normal now that we don't tolerate smoking, but we glorify alcohol. Mr. Miltenberger earlier mentioned the fact that we just accept it as a daily practice. There are a lot more positive connotations to it than negative impacts.

Mr. Speaker, I just, once again, want to say that this motion and the important part of it is that we have to do something to denormalize it. We need an effective campaign from the government. We are not just asking for a slogan, but a slogan is something that we can all get behind.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated earlier that there are lots of community empowerment going on. That is an important aspect of that, too. We know that we cannot address alcohol abuse issues without having all of the communities involved. We need to spend more resources and more time figuring out how we could strengthen the entire spectrum of alcohol and drug issues. Treatment is one of them. Prevention is in the front of that and then aftercare. You have to live with yourself after addiction. That requires a lot of support from the families. We need to create a healthy culture. We need to denormalize alcohol. We need everybody in the communities to be able to tell whoever is engaged in unruly and criminal activity, whether they are older or younger people, women and men, that we don't condone that.

We don't accept it and we will not take it anymore and we do not condone alcohol abuse in our communities. Mr. Speaker, another thing I think why we need to have a strategy and a clear slogan is people out there do not understand what this government is doing. Working within, we know about all of the studies and the increased number of positions on mental health and alcohol and drug issues, but people do not know that; people don't understand why the government cannot have alcohol and drug treatment centres in Yellowknife and Inuvik; on top of Hay River. If it is the government's decision that it is better for us to have one treatment centre and send those who are in need of special care down south, we need to see that there's a lot of work being done in between. Mr. Speaker, for those who are willing to look, there are a lot going on in our communities. Tree of Peace, Salvation Army, there's Aurora House where it's a transition house for men in Yellowknife, but people do not see that and what people see is all these horrible situations in the downtown area or in our communities, our youth being affected by alcohol abuse, and the government just seems to sit back and do nothing. I know the government is not sitting back and doing nothing. We need to let the people know what we are doing, we need to have a slogan like "Don't Be a Butthead" or "Get Active" that we did today and get on a massive campaign to say we do not accept negative behaviour from alcohol abuse.

Mr. Speaker, on the question of enforcement, I would like to see an RCMP officer in every community in the Northwest Territories. When we were in Colville Lake, I tell you, a 1-800 number in Yellowknife to call for enforcement is not what's going to work. In most of the communities, they want an RCMP presence in every community and if that is not possible, I believe we should figure out a way to have an alcohol and drug control officer in every community. We need the enforcement there to stop bootlegging and stop the ability for people to just call a larger centre, have boxes and boxes of alcohol

get packed up in the airplane and just land and nobody has to account for who is responsible for that alcohol. The laws are already in place; we're not enforcing it. If we can't afford to have an RCMP in every community, why can't we have an alcohol and drug officer in every community so that we show that we take the negative impact of alcohol and drug abuse seriously? That it is a number one public enemy. It is killing our adults, our youth, it's keeping our people in hospital, sending people to jail, keeping them out of school and we're not allowing our people to be the best that they can be.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to close by saying that alcohol abuse and alcoholism is the number one public enemy in the Northwest Territories and we have to take this seriously, and I think in a positive way this is the number one solution. Once we address this, we will have a healthier population; we'll have reduced costs in hospitals; we'll have less people in jail; we will have less kids going through family violence, less women being violated. It is the key to our future and we must denormalize abuse and negative impacts of alcohol. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support of this motion also, Mr. Speaker, for all the reasons that all the Members have stated earlier in all our Members' statements and all the reasons here that are stated in the motion, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know that all our social ills here in the NWT have derived from alcohol and I just want to point what the Member from Range Lake did, that it is kind of a public enemy number one. But I'd more or less like to term it as the aboriginal enemy number one, Mr. Speaker, because it is the aboriginals that are in our jails, it is the aboriginals that are in our hospitals, it is the aboriginals that are in our small communities that are suffering from alcohol abuse, Mr. Speaker. I think that it's time that we, as a government, have to develop a campaign through a motion like this to inform and educate the aboriginal people, especially our aboriginal youth, Mr. Speaker, who are most at risk, that alcohol is not and should not be considered as normal behaviour, especially when you're consuming large amounts of alcohol in very short periods of time.

In all of our communities, all of our small centres here around the NWT are all challenged to keep the alcohol under control. We all have ways of dealing with it, but still we have to allow our own people to be in control of their own lives. That, Mr. Speaker, is a real fine balancing act for our community social workers, our community health workers and this government in trying to find where the balance is. I think a motion like this puts more emphasis on encouraging this government to work harder to find out where that balance might be and to assist all these people in the communities in how to deal with alcohol abuse in their own community, Mr. Speaker, because no one solution is going to work for all, I can tell you right now. Each community has its own circumstances and ways that they're dealing with it today and I think some of them are really good and some of them need some more work in it. I think that if we can successfully come forward with a campaign that addresses all these various positive things

about how the communities are working toward addressing alcohol abuse in the large and small centres, we could come together to formulate a strategy that's territorial-wide that deals with this issue on a regional basis and in those regions they can deal with it specifically in each community.

With that, I fully endorse and support and I really hope that something like this we can measure with some success over the next couple of years in seeing a lot of youth and a lot of our working people between the ages of 24 and 35 years old that are in the mine right now making healthier choices, having sustainable lives and treating their families with respect and dignity that we all hope we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, stand in support of the motion. I'm pleased to see it here. In the almost eight years now that I've served in this Assembly, looking back I've tried to take a bit of an inventory of just what have we done, or at least what have I done and helped do in the last two terms here that might have contributed something to our government's role in reducing alcohol abuse. Not a lot of things come to mind, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I should go through some of the acts in the legislation, but I do recall I think the Motor Vehicles Act in was it the previous Assembly, in which we amended the allowable blood alcohol levels, we reduced those. Has that made a difference in terms of accident and fatality levels on our highways? Perhaps it's too early to tell.

Mr. Speaker, we are about to engage in a very fundamental piece of legislation, the Liquor Act, which has long been overdue and is a part of sort of the control and the management systems that we have, but it is not the big artillery barrage that some people might think it is. It is only a part, and I think a relatively small part, of what is needed in the very large agenda, a very diverse curriculum that we're going to need to really tackle this.

So at least in the eight years that I've been here, I think if we really look at ourselves as a Legislative Assembly, we have been timid on this. We have not paid as much attention to it, we have not recognized it for what it is. It's not like an emergency or a forest fire kind of a crisis that all of a sudden it's there and we can easily focus on it, we know that there's going to be an end to it. Alcohol and its affect have been part of society for thousands of years. It is something that's very deeply rooted and very deeply entrenched. It's part of our value system, part of our lifestyles and it is not going to get turned around, but, as many of my colleagues have already said, we can't afford anymore to be complacent about the trends that we're seeing.

Mr. Speaker, our motion asks the government in some ways to take some relatively specific action, but I would like to say that I hope the government reads into it a much broader mandate, a much broader desire on the part of the Members over here on this side, to engage in a very aggressive, very creative and high-powered approach to the issues that we're facing and that all the indications tell us are going to get worse. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that has concerned me is that no one agency or department of our government really has the lead or the responsibility to take this on. Even in the Liquor Act itself,

that is essentially a piece of business and administration law. It does not assume the responsibility to help our society undertake a responsible use of alcohol. We have the Department of Justice, of course, that deals with so many of the consequences along with the Department of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment certainly has a role, perhaps not as direct. So we have all these different pockets of responsibility and impact, but we have not taken this problem and put it up on a single pedestal, if you will, Mr. Speaker, so that we can say okay, here is where we're going to vest the authority and the accountability for addressing and attacking this problem and this is the agency we're going to resource, we're going to make sure they have the tools, the dollars, the expertise needed to make a difference. I think that is one of the significant barriers that we have in this Assembly and in this government to achieving a real impact on this kind of social ill. It is so big, it is so multi-layered that we, I think, have managed collectively to avoid or defer the role that we should be playing in this.

Mr. Speaker, I do applaud the initiative of the Department of Health and Social Services, the undertaking of the former Minister, Mr. Miltenberger, to apply 1 percent of that department's expenditures to addictions. That is an example of the kind of leadership that will hopefully get us there, but we need to be committed to it. I look at the example that other organizations, particularly the NGOs, other levels of government have already shouldered in dealing with the frontline consequences of alcoholism. We've talked about the friendship centres, the YWCA, the Salvation Army and we should certainly mention in there the role that the Students Against Drinking and Driving organization has played in this community and around the NWT. This is truly where leadership is being demonstrated and where we should very aggressively be undertaking a campaign to bring these strengths of our community together and forge a true partnership and coalition to take this on. That, Mr. Speaker, I think is where the first step needs to be taken if we're really going to turn this corner right here in this Assembly. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, stand in support of this motion and I appreciate everyone in this House giving this motion the attention it deserves and the respect it deserves by paying close attention to the words that are being spoken on this side. Mr. Speaker, I'm living testament to the devastation that alcohol can cause on a family. I've lost two aunts, two uncles, my grandfather, cousins, friends to alcohol and the abuse of alcohol. All these people, and many more across the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, would be still with us today had it not been for alcohol. It's sad to see, like I said in my Member's statement, growing up in the '70s it was normal, it was normal to get alcohol and it was just something that you did because it was normal. Today, I see a lot of people that I knew when I was growing up have decided, and they've made a commitment, to quit their drinking. I've seen them where their homes were busted and broken and families split apart, but I see them today and how they're living today. Those are role models that we should look up to.

We were at a meeting in Fort McPherson and there was a young girl there who stood in front of her community, in

front of our committee, and said our leaders have to be sober, our leaders have to be role models.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MR. MCLEOD: I firmly believe that. I would not stand up and support this if I didn't practise it. I'm proud of the fact that I can come down to Yellowknife, meet with my colleagues and we don't go running off to the bar after a hard day of debating Bill No. 8. That's the type of leadership we need. We shouldn't be up here saying do as I say not as I do. We have to practise what we preach because you can say all the words that you want, you can talk until you're blue in the face, but people will see you and they'll judge you by the way you carry yourself and the kind of lifestyle you lead. So that's the type of role models that we should have in place.

Mr. Speaker, I've seen many cases where alcohol has prevented, like the motion said, people from succeeding. People will do well, they think they can have, oh, one or two drinks and I'm fine, but there's an old song where one is one too many and a thousand's not enough. I don't know if you remember that, but that was from the early '70s. So some of us that are old enough will remember it.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important motion and I've seen families where there is no alcohol in the home, but the kids still run into the parties and the drinking. Why? Because it's normal and it's expected of you. If you're a teenager growing up today, the peer pressure is unbelievable because not only is there alcohol, there's all the drugs that are out there and there's all these people selling drugs and driving these nice skidoos, they've got fancy vehicles and kids look up to them. They say oh man, I've got to live like that, but they're scum, Mr. Speaker, to put it quite bluntly. They live off of the abuse and the addictions of people. So I have absolutely no respect for anyone that carries on any kind of work like that, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, I've seen kids from homes where there's no alcohol and that. The easiest thing you can do is just go with the current, it's the easiest thing you can do, but if you want to test the intestinal fortitude of anybody, swim against the current. There's very few people that swim against the current.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how much plainer I can make it, but alcohol is, as Bobby said, it's the aboriginals' worst enemy, it's a lot of people in the Territories worst enemy and we have to get the message out there and it starts with the leadership. We have to get the message out there that this kind of behaviour is not acceptable anymore, it's not normal anymore. There used to be a time when it was normal and it was expected, but I'm starting to believe that some of that attitude is starting to change because I do see some people who have turned their lives around. I have nothing but the utmost respect for these people because it's a difficult thing to do. Mr. Speaker, I say that from experience because I've been through that, I've been through that. It started at 12 until I was, like, 23. It was a problem that I had, it affected me and all the people around me, but 12 years old, but it was expected of you at the time. So we all did it. But as you grow older and you start having a family, you realize that this is not the way to be and this is the message that we have to get out there. I've said twice and I will say again, it starts with the leadership and it's not do as I say, but not as I do. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am in full support of this motion here. I thank the Members for bringing this forward and having the opportunity to discuss it. I want to thank Mr. McLeod for bringing some perspective in terms of his discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to congratulate and honour the leaders in the Northwest Territories, especially the Members in the Legislative Assembly who have done some work on themselves to stay away from alcohol and who have worked very hard to see, for at least myself, what life is like and opening your eyes every morning and seeing the beauty of life and seeing the benefits of not having to use alcohol, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I always bring it back to the point too that I certainly tip my hat to these people who can have a glass of wine and leave it at that. That's fine; that's just one of the things when you're dealing with alcohol, is that in some of the cases that at one time, as Mr. McLeod has pointed out, at one time it was normal. I mean if you look at 20 or 30 years ago it was normal. We have come a long way in government in not having so much normal, so much that at one time all our leaders at leadership meetings were coming in feeling pretty rough and looking pretty rough. I'm not one to judge, but that's what I observed as a young leader, as a young chief, Mr. Speaker. We have come a long way today when we're coming into meetings with our leaders; they're crisp, they're sober and they're on the ball here.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have done a lot of work. We have to remember the work that we've done because this is about 30 to 40 years alone in the Northwest Territories in terms of in the olden days and how it used to be.

Mr. Speaker, the one issue I wanted to talk about with this business in alcohol in terms of helping out with the businesses, you know we've got the major potential and projects happening in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, that there's lots of issues that have to be dealt around with businesses and how families are affected. Mr. Speaker, the issue of the lost time, I heard one Member talk about the number of hours that could be lost due to health problems and also to business issues. A lot of people in the region talk about these, that's a good worker, but, gee whiz, on Friday you don't see him, you have to find a worker on Saturday and Sunday. We're losing business. What is the government doing in terms of lost hours of labour, lost hours of employment and then we expect to have a Mackenzie gas project come down the Mackenzie Valley and see what can happen if we don't look at this issue on many fronts?

Mr. Speaker, I like the motion where it talks about denormalizing. For me, Mr. Speaker, I'll say it again, this is to somehow give the communities, give the regions better resources, let them deal with their own solutions in how to deal with the alcohol issue, the drug issue. It's basically to give the people the opportunity to deal with it on their own terms. We have one treatment centre here, Nats'ejee K'eh that's being used on the Hay River Dene Reserve for all the North. How long have they been working in the communities to deal with this issue here? Somehow if we think out of the box, give the regions and their community some money for them to use to see how best they can deal with this issue here. I think that way it will help to know that people who know, for example, people who come from the land are going out to the land to work on themselves, small families, not groups of 20 or 30 but small families of four or five, families go out on the

land for a week or two to talk about some issues in their life.

It's all about life, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about it and how do you deal with life without using alcohol. That's something that I like about this motion where it talks about denormalizing. When you deal with the hard life of the loss of your family or the loss of a friend or the loss of a job or just the work of getting either fired or being laid off, how do you deal with that? A lot of times we grab the bottle because it becomes our friend. We haven't ever in the Northwest Territories, under this here, really talked about the effects of alcohol and alcoholism in our communities. We have never really talked about the strategy of why our young kids are using alcohol so much. What is it that we are doing as leaders in terms of telling our youth? They hear it up here, but do they get it in here? The youth can read, but do they really get it in their heart about the power of alcohol, because it's something that they're doing today that's giving them something that we can't give them. Really think about it.

I congratulate and applaud the people who have put the bottle away. That's the easy part. The hard part is keeping it away because there's so many reasons, Mr. Speaker, to grab the bottle again and drink it and have a sip. There's so many opportunities and excuses to have that, pressure on us, especially as Members of the Legislative Assembly and our families. We have every reason to speak to you to have something like that. That's why I said I applaud the people that can have a glass of wine or a beer and leave it. Unfortunately I'm not one of them.

There's a lot of support groups now today. There's Yellowknife and our communities and our region. We've got workers in our communities. Thirty years ago we didn't have that. The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes alcoholism as a disease, a chronic disease that's treatable. That's all, but what are we really doing? I'd like to see more of it done. The Minister has indicated that we're looking at some solutions. So I really applaud him. I'd like to work with the Minister, the department, to help do as much as we can do to get the youth off the drugs and get them on the land. The older people and the people in the communities always said take them on the land. I really didn't understand that, Mr. Speaker, until I went down to Hay River on the Dene reserve and I talked to an elder there. I asked him what is that you mean about this because I really couldn't get it, and I was working at the Nats'ejee K'eh as a counsellor. So I asked him what is that I keep hearing, go on the land, go on the land, and the elder on the Hay River Reserve said take them on the land. The first couple days get them to learn about the land, set nets or set some snares or help around the camp for two or three days. Maybe by the third or fourth day that person's spirit is going to wake up and when that person's spirit wakes up, that's when you go and grab him or her and teach them. They'll never forget. In the community it is too busy. You've got CDs, you've got these games going on, you've got sports, you've got friends and something happens, but on the land something else happens that's very powerful. So I thanked the elder for that wisdom and wise things to say to us.

So we are doing a lot. We have a lot there for our people. We have to show the people who get on the land you pack your own water, chop your own wood, don't go into a treatment centre because everything is going to be provided for you. Your food is cooked for you, your light,

your heat, it's all there for you, it's easy, it's not normal for people who grew up on the land. You've got to use your mind and you've got to exercise your spirit. Take them out there and work for their life. We have called it a sickness here in terms of dependency. Alcohol is just a buddy there and friend to blame us for not doing enough, blame us for the problem. Look at Tl'oondih, how come we're not supporting Tl'oondih?

---Applause

We've seen the program.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mrs. Groenewegen for bringing this motion up and talking about it. I tell you my heart saddens because I have lost someone really close to me because of this and I did not want to speak about it because I know how hurt we were as kids and how our eyes were when we had to experience that situation. I speak for many in the Northwest Territories how their parents, grandparents, and even as my colleague from Range Lake talked about the people in Colville Lake, how the elders look when they talked to us about this issue in Colville Lake. They're fighting and they're asking us for help, but the elder said in Colville Lake we can do the program, we've got the lake and the land right in front of us. That's our treatment centre. We've got to think that way, Mr. Speaker.

I know there's some really, really good people working in Nats'ejee K'eh. I know they put their heart into it. I know the work they've done, people in treatment centres. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to say this and I want to thank the Member from Hay River and the Member from Range Lake for supporting this motion. I want to say to the government we have done a lot for our people. We've done too much to a point where now they're depending on us to sober them up. We haven't given that responsibility to them. Take them on the land and get them to learn about the responsibility for their own life and how hard it is to stay away from the use of alcohol or drugs for people who have done that in their life. There's some really good role models, there's some really good ones. Get them off the alcohol and drugs and get them on the land. That's what the elders' message is and that's what I'd like to confirm that we've been listening to them. So I wanted to say that, Mr. Speaker, that to denormalize this again for the people that I speak for that come from the land here. To deal with this, Mr. Speaker, it's a spiritual issue here in terms of our land and I can't explain it because you have your own sense of spirituality and that's your own. There's no right or wrong, just that we've got some major projects, we've got some big things to look after in the Northwest Territories and we've got to deal with this bigger issue here of alcohol use because our kids are worth it.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wanted to say that from this issue here from alcoholism, it has taught me a lot. It has taught me how to be human and it's taught me how to deal with issues without having crutches, to make excuses, and it's taught me a lot of life. At one point in my life, it really hurt me. So I wanted to say that it's a good motion. We should have some more discussions, talk to our people, talk to our region. We've made a lot of headway, but I think there's a lot more to get done. However, we are going to discuss that hopefully in the future assemblies and hopefully that is discussed in our communities in terms of what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, stand up today to support this motion. I thank my colleague Mrs. Groenewegen for putting it forward.

I think, Mr. Speaker, you have to remember -- I'm going back 50 or 60 years ago -- we were introduced to this substance alcohol by westerners and it's a well-known fact that back in the United Kingdom and Europe it's normal for them to do that. Whereas, in the short time, over the last 50 or 60 years, we were introduced to something that we weren't used to before. As I indicated in my Member's statement earlier, I grew up with my parents where they made homebrew and that was normal because that's all they had. I heard some of my colleagues here talking about going to high school in Inuvik. I never really got to try alcohol until I went to the high school in Inuvik where I ran into my peers, the same age, 16, 17 and 18 year olds that wanted to try it. Because you're at a young age, you want a challenge because you're trying to defeat what's enforceable by government. I mean they have laws that if you're underage, you're not allowed to drink, but that's the kind of little things that I tried when I was growing up. It also came to a point when I started working for Imperial Oil out at Bar "C" two weeks on two weeks off. Being the youngest person at that time, my two weeks' paycheque went right to, you know, what became normal at the time, buying alcohol with my peers. That's how I saw myself spending my money. Working two weeks on and two weeks off and spending it in a place where it should never have been spent before, but it was just normal because we were growing up. We were learning the life of maybe the older people that were able to drink.

Following that, Mr. Speaker, I made one of the wisest choices when I went back home to go live with my parents again. That's where I came to realize that this alcohol is something that affects a lot of people. That's when some of the elders came up to me at that time and said look, you just got out of high school, you're young, why don't you get involved with local politics? That was one of the best, best choices that the elders ever told me. So I think from going back from 1978 on to today, I think I've learned a lot. Alcohol is there, you can have it as a social drink, but don't get it to a point where you're obsessed with it.

Like I say, I've been involved with politics now since 1978. I've gone through a lot of things before. I think having my parents behind me to show me the right path and also when I met my wife, Lucille, in 1978, she's the one that really made me smarten up after we had our first son. With affects like that it's important because if you have family to back you up when you need them most, you know, they're there. I appreciate my whole family for that and I'm glad to stand here today to say that although I drink once in a while, not to the excess where it's affecting me, but I would like to say, though, that there are ways that we can do it. But I really support this motion in terms of hoping the government can do something about it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I think when we talk about alcohol I think government is one of the biggest factors that plays the big role because we are the ones that support it through government services sales, either government or privatized. So we're the ones that are supplying it to the communities and yet we're talking about how can we denormalize alcohol. Again, that's something that maybe, as government, we should look at. So I think, Mr.

Speaker, that I will support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to endorse my full support for this motion that has been brought forward by Mrs. Groenewegen for Hay River South. This has been an issue in the communities for quite some time now. When I spoke in my language, I spoke about the importance of elders' wisdom in the past, where our elders spoke and kids were quiet around the table or even discussion periods. Nowadays when you go to communities, kids are all over the place. The parents are out somewhere and the kids are running loose.

Now is the time I see this as an enforcement on those little ones as well, focussing on them. Because what we're saying here is denormalizing means in our perspective would be it's not normal. But we are allowing it in the communities for little ones like eight, nine, 10 year olds -- I see in my community -- that are drinking alcohol, that are doing drugs. Let's do something before it's too late.

I'm glad this motion is in front of us. This motion will certainly deal with that matter, Mr. Speaker. Whether it be different logos or whatever, the bottleneck or whatever you want to call it, I think we need to do more in the communities saying booze is not good, these are the consequences. Like the cigarettes. The little ones in school, they don't know the consequences. They see the parents and, no fault of their own, they went to residential school and they suffered and they're hiding behind the booze; some of them, not all of them. So there's no fault of their own, so we, as government, need to do something. Work with the parents because they certainly cannot do it on their own as parents, because some of them cannot be role models, they have suffered enough. Let's step in and let's help them, all the communities, 33 communities we're faced with.

I'm totally focussed on the youth perspective, Mr. Speaker, because every time I go to a community I see little ones running around. They'll certainly be here around the table down the road. Think in long terms. It's time that we step in and fix the problem, work with it. Let's do something as we did with tobacco, now it's alcohol and substance abuse. It's a huge issue and we certainly would like to see those youngsters in this House one of these days. Mahsi.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

---Applause

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion is bigger than it states on words on the paper. Mr. Speaker, we talk about those who are dependent and we want to denormalize the issue, but we have to also recognize those people who are living with these people who are abusing alcohol. I'd like to take this time to talk about a couple small stories. They're really small, but just to give you sort of a personal sense of where it's sort of gone and come from in my perspective.

I remember growing up in Fort Simpson and knowing somebody who flew in from one of the communities so he could get his hands on a Texas mickey. Being a youth, to realize that someone would charter a plane to fly into Simpson to get a Texas mickey, that's control and that control has to be broken, Mr. Speaker. That wasn't a choice; that's some type of control that the alcohol has on them.

Mr. Speaker, I remember growing up and I remember a particular father. He was a drunk and he used to beat his kids regularly, and that wasn't really fun to watch. I was very thankful that wasn't happening at my house, I can tell you that. I remember he used to beat his kids down the street, beat them on the way home. It wasn't just sort of pay attention; it was like he really laid it to his kids. This guy was controlled by alcohol.

I remember one of the best things about summertime -- and I lived right close to it but, then again, you live to close to almost everything -- but we used to look forward to spring this time of year because we used to go to the aboveground swimming pool, and anyone who has been to an aboveground swimming pool will know that it's not really deeper than your waist. One of my buddies growing up, one of my best friends, Mr. Speaker, he never swam but he was always at the pool with us and he tormented us all the same as we did to everybody else at the pool, and we all did those fun things there. I can tell you a story about one time he went and got drunk, and he decided to swim across the Snye. But to tie the story together, he couldn't swim. So he was controlled by alcohol and it gave him courage to do something that he couldn't do.

Mr. Speaker, I know of another person growing up. He liked to drink and sometimes he was motivated to drive afterwards. I'm not going to say encouraged to drive, but I'd say the people who got in the vehicle obviously had some type of courage because I can tell you one person didn't make it out. They're now on full-time dependent care for the rest of their life because they were in that vehicle with him. It wasn't the first accident that they had, but you kind of wish they would have caught on to the first one, but the second one was even more devastating.

Mr. Speaker, my last little story on this particular case would be I remember this school friend of mine, growing up again in Fort Simpson. This friend of mine, it was a young lady, her favourite song -- this is when ABBA was really popular, so this will set you back a few years, obviously -- I remember her favourite song was I Dream of Angels. It sounds sort of nice when you hear that. Her two brothers got drunk, started shooting at each other. They missed themselves, but they didn't miss her. You look back and you kind of wonder, you know, did she know something? That was her favourite song. So every time I hear it today, when it comes up every once in a while, I do think of her and I wonder about that horrible situation. I wish they had choices.

This motion speaks to the issue of choices and we have people dependent and they can't make a choice in the sense of breaking away from this problem, but we forget about the people who are locked into this situation who don't have any choices. We forget about the kids that are locked in; we forget about the wives that are locked in; sometimes even the husbands, but we can't forget about those. This motion reminds me of that situation that a lot of folks are trapped. Although we're talking about denormalizing alcohol for the folks that are using it, but when I read the motion and I hear about the motion, I

think about the folks that have become victims of the motion and I look at this.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a lot more to add, but I can't help but think about the kids who live in that household, possibly neglected, who knows if they're abused or beaten, but I can tell you I have witnessed some of that stuff myself. I've seen kids that have gotten the rough ride when they shouldn't have. Precious years were lost on people because the kids became victims, and I'm sure many precious good years have been lost on spouses who become victims of those attached to alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, I thought I'd talk about this perspective because booze just doesn't affect the drinker; it has radiating effects to everybody else. I haven't even got into the community and things like that, which don't need to be talked about today, we've heard a lot from other Members. But I'm just sort of speaking about my perspective. So I'll say to the government -- and I know they're listening very closely because this is an important issue, and I know they support us in our endeavours, they support this side of the House, although they don't vote with us obviously on this particular issue -- but I'll say if you can't bring yourself to help those who are dependent on the alcohol, then maybe their focus and our spirit behind this motion can we look at the ones that are loved and fall through the systems, and the victims. So could we do it for maybe the loved ones if we can't do it for those who are dependent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

---Applause

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alcohol abuse is probably one of the most devastating and most expensive, costly expenditures in our government's programs. If we were ever able to get control on this, then I think we'd be amazed at the amount of money that could be saved and the amount of devastation and disruption to lives.

Mr. Speaker, part of the challenge is to help people to control their own lives, not have alcohol controlling it for them. Part of it is having laws that are appropriate. Part of it is having policing and, certainly, treatment is part of it. But more than anything else, in my view, Mr. Speaker, it's helping people to become self-reliant, to become people who control themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet will look very, very seriously at the recommendations that are made. We have listened to the comments made by Members and we'll take a look at what can be done to get control over this very, very costly issue in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we will not be voting on this motion because it is a recommendation to government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. I'll allow the mover of the motion to make closing remarks. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members again for speaking to this motion and for, in many instances, sharing some very personal experiences and very personal knowledge of this particular matter. So I really think this is a good thing to send this message to the public and the people of the Northwest Territories and tell them how we, as leaders, feel about this subject of alcohol abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I've been looking at some of the young people even here serving as Pages in the House today. I hope the message gets out to our young people that you don't have to learn this lesson the hard way. You don't need to take the long way around to find out, to get healthy. As young people that are empowered now and have access to good information, they can shortcut this whole long and devastating process that people have to go through and make healthy choices.

I really appreciate Mr. Yakeleya talking about people getting out on the land and getting in touch with their own spirit. There are so many distractions, I agree, in the communities. People are on their...What do you call those things? I don't even have one. Text messaging and they've got their iPod in their ear and they're just completely bombarded continually with some kind of stimulation. There's no quiet time; there's no time to reflect; there's no time to contemplate and I agree with that, people do need to get in touch with their spirit.

As a government, we do talk a lot about physical healing. Through our health care services, we talk a lot about emotional healing. But we do not, as a government, talk much about spiritual healing. We don't talk about that third part of a person that needs...and there are so many avenues out there where people do find that spiritual healing, and that can go some long ways toward dealing with this issue of alcohol abuse.

So to the issue of denormalizing alcohol abuse, make no mistake, it is not normal to forfeit possession of your judgement to alcohol. It is not normal to put yourself or your loved ones at risk for the sake of alcohol, and it is not normal to destroy your health or your peace of mind or your sense of well-being through the use of alcohol. It is normal to love yourself, to care for yourself, and our human instinct is for self-preservation and to care for ourselves and for those around us.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will just seek a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Member is asking for a recorded vote on the motion. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

Recorded Vote

ACTING CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Bennett): Mrs. Groenewegen; Mr. Ramsay; Mr. Pokiak; Mr. Villeneuve; Mr. Lafferty; Mr. Miltenberger; Ms. Lee; Mr. Yakeleya; Mr. Braden; Mr. McLeod, Twin Lakes; Mr. Hawkins.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed to the motion, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The results of the vote: all those in favour, 11; opposed, zero; abstaining, seven. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Before I go to Mr. Ramsay, I'd just like to take this opportunity to recognize in the gallery Heather Riviere and her son Timmy.

---Applause

Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to return to item 15 on the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 15, notices of motion, on the Order Paper. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Return to item 15. Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

REVERT TO ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 8-15(6): Commitment To The Deh Cho Bridge

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 17, 2007, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the government not enter into a binding agreement committing it to the Deh Cho Bridge project until it has provided Regular Members with: an up-to-date analysis of the expected cost of living impacts of the bridge on Yellowknife, the Tlicho communities and the Akaitcho communities; the estimated social impacts and economic benefits for the community of Fort Providence; and the exact total cost of the Deh Cho Bridge to the Government of the Northwest Territories; and given Regular Members an opportunity to comment on whether the bridge should proceed based on this information.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Notices of motion. First reading of bills. Honourable Minister responsible for the Liquor Commission, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 18: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 15: Liquor Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 15, Liquor Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

---Carried

Bill 15 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 19: SECOND 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of debts owed to the government and public agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 9 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the forgiveness of debts owed to the government and public agencies.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 10 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

Bill 11: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2007

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in the statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill deals with other matters of a minor, non-controversial and uncomplicated nature in the statutes, and repeals provisions that have ceased to have effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 11 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill replaces the Public Health Act and the Disease Registries Act. It provides a comprehensive framework for the protection and promotion of public health in the Northwest Territories. Consequential amendments are made to the Education Act, the Medical Profession Act and the Mental Health Act. The Public Health Act and the Disease Registries Act are repealed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 12 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for 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 Nahendeh, that Bill 13, Change of Name Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals and replaces the existing Change of Name Act, to provide an efficient scheme for changing the names of individuals, including giving enhanced public notice of name changes through accessible means of publication.

The registrar general of vital statistics will enter a change of name in the change of name register, publish notice of the change of name and provide notice of the change to certain authorities. The Minister may direct that the records of a change of name be sealed if he or she is satisfied that the change is intended to prevent significant harm to a person.

An objection to a change of name may be made to the registrar general, and the registrar general may revoke a change of name in certain circumstances. An appeal may be made to the Supreme Court.

A person may use his or her spouse's surname or, on breakdown or dissolution of the spousal relationship or the death of his or her spouse, resume using a surname that he or she had before the commencement of the spousal relationship without making an application under the act.

The Supreme Court may also change a person's name when it grants a divorce or makes an order annulling a marriage.

This bill makes consequential amendments to the Vital Statistics Act, to provide for making applications for changes of name to the registrar general appointed under the Vital Statistics Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 13 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill replaces the Labour Standards Act, the Employment Agencies Act and the Wages Recovery Act with a single statute.

The bill applies to all employers and employees, subject to certain exceptions, and restricts the circumstances in which persons 16 years of age or younger may be employed.

The bill fixes the standard and the maximum hours of work in a day and in a week, subject to certain exceptions, and provides entitlements to overtime pay, vacation pay and holiday pay, as well as to unpaid pregnancy leave, parental leave, sick leave, compassionate leave, bereavement leave and court leave. The minimum wage would be prescribed by regulation.

An employment standards officer would have primary responsibility for enforcing employment standards and would be empowered to hear complaints and to make orders, including orders to compensate or reinstate an employee. The bill also provides for the appointment of adjudicators to hear appeals under the act.

Employers would be required to maintain employment records and to provide advance notice of termination to affected employees and their trade union, if any, where the employment of large numbers of employees is terminated.

The bill provides for enforcement and establishes offences and penalties for contraventions of the act or regulations or of orders made under the act. Orders for wages are deemed to have special priority in relation to other security interests filed under the Personal Property Security Act and the Land Titles Act.

The bill authorizes the making of various regulations, including regulations implementing the act and regulations providing for licensing of employment agencies.

The Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act, the Financial Administration Act, the Interpretation Act and the Seizures Act are consequentially amended, and the Employment Agencies Act, Labour Standards Act and Wages Recovery Act are repealed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 14 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Second 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: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to provide that a transition allowance may be paid to a Member who resigns his or her seat in the Legislative Assembly. The bill also provides that no Member may, by virtue of a break in service, receive a transition allowance that exceeds the annual indemnity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 16 has had second reading and is referred to Committee of the Whole.

Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 8 and Bill 16, with Mr. Ramsay in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order and ask what is the wish of the committee. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the committee wishes to consider Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2007-2008. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We will do that after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Good afternoon. I will call Committee of the Whole Back to order. Thank you, Members. Yesterday, we left off on page 11. I'd like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the witnesses in, please. Thank you.

Mr. Minister, maybe you can introduce your witnesses, please, for the record.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Yesterday, we left off on page 11. Please turn to page 11 of Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2007-2008. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$6,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Community operations, not previously authorized, \$1.222 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$19.999 million. Mr. McLeod.

Committee Motion 1-15(6): Delete \$291,000 For Regional Resource Development Impact Advisor Positions, Defeated

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I moved that \$291,000 be deleted from the activity regional operations under the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs operations expenditures, not previously authorized, on page 11, for the provision of funding for two regional resource development impact advisor positions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is on the floor. We will hand out the motion right now. Thank you.

The motion is going to be handed out shortly, so we will take a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to move this motion because I feel that we have some positions already dedicated to resource development and with everything slowing down, I don't see the need, to be quite honest with you, to have two more regional development impact advisory positions in the regions. I am concerned as to where they would go. I have no idea if they are going to be going to Yellowknife, Hay River or Inuvik.

I just feel, Mr. Chair, that we continue to come up with all these titles and put money into it and that money could be better spent, in my opinion, on programs. We have some programs out there that money could be put towards. You look in the paper, Mr. Chair, and you see some of the titles that they come up with and the amount of money that they are paid at. I am just starting to see that we are not in the job or the position of creating employment. It seems to me like it's too much of what we are doing lately and I really feel that this \$291,000 could be better spent elsewhere and with the pipeline talk and all the resource development slowing down to a snail's pace, then I see no need for two regional impact advisory positions. I think we should have the capacity within the 4,600 employees of the GNWT to do the work that we are asking these two people to do. It's a lot of money, Mr. Chair. For that reason, I was more than happy to move this motion to delete the \$291,000 and I will stand by it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if he could provide some detail on these positions. I can't ask questions on a motion, Mr. Chair? Okay. Well, then we'll go with ...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. You have to speak to the motion, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Braden. We understand from some of the background research that committee has done into this, that the location of these two positions has yet to be determined. So we don't know which regions or which communities they are going to go to. In fact, similar positions that have been recruited for in the past have been extremely difficult to recruit to. On this one, I am with Mr. McLeod. I looking at the amount of resources, both PY and financial, and it should be noted here that this is \$291,000 for two positions. I am assuming that includes travel and related expense to this job. So these are not inexpensive positions. One thing that our information did not give me a good insight into, Mr. Chairman, was the function. Just what do these jobs do? They are called regional resource development impact advisors. I know that we have a lot of resource related advisors and expertise already in the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. We have a pipeline office created by the GNWT ostensibly to coordinate and bring this kind of thing together. What function are these positions have for MACA? I was not able to secure a satisfying answer on how the performance and the objectives and results are measured from what these positions would do. So in the sense that we seem to have beefed up a whole bunch of preparation capacity and awareness on pipeline and resource impacts, but to the

point where I can't really see what is the value of putting almost \$300,000 of taxpayers' money into this.

I guess another aspect of this was that while it was suggested that these two positions would be located in one of four communities; Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson or Hay River, depending on the choice of the successful candidate if they are found. Now these are regional resource development advisors. In the North Slave region and in the South Slave region, except for what we might call Hay River and Fort Simpson, there is not a lot of oil and gas activity going on, but there is a bunch of other stuff. Would these positions have anything to do with resource activity going on, for instance, in this region, in the Yellowknife region? According to this list here, by the selection of which communities they could be stationed in, probably not. So, Mr. Chairman, I don't see the value in this. I support the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. On my list, I have Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to support the motion that is before us for many of the reasons my colleagues have talked about. With all due respect, I think to my colleague from the Sahtu and others, I know these are regional positions, but I have been consistent with challenging the government on job position growth and I am believer, Mr. Chairman, that the government has a systemic inability to manage its human resources, always has had and continues to have. We really need to focus more on the future and come up with a comprehensive plan.

What I see happening, Mr. Chairman, is the government just reacting to things, knee-jerk reactions and hiring people as a result of knee-jerk reactions. This is just a case in point. The Hay River pipeline office is another case in point. The macroeconomic policy shop is another case in point, if I could. Those positions are in Yellowknife. I question those. I question these. I think we really need to put the brakes on position growth at least until the 16th Assembly comes through the doors and they can conduct a zero-base review of all positions government wide. I don't agree with these positions. Coordination on the pipeline file, in my opinion, continues to be haphazard at best. Again, these were only supposed to be for two years, these positions. We are going to keep them around for another couple of years. Haven't they concluded the work they were intended to do? There is no resource, Mr. Chairman. There is none. So are we fooling ourselves or what? I can't see us supporting this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Next on the list I have Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I spoke to this yesterday and I wanted to say a few more comments, make a few more comments. This is a continuation of positions that were allocated a couple of years ago on term, four positions, that have sunsetted now. The idea was to have some bodies in the communities that were impacted by, first of all, the pipeline project and other resource development that is going on. A lot of work has been done. Yesterday, there were comments a made that MACA should have all the baseline information that the communities have in terms of infrastructure and capacity. That hasn't been the case. We haven't done that kind of inventory as to what each community has, what each community owns, what kind of people are in the community. Those things had to be

compiled. That's a process that we've embarked on and we've completed roughly 50 percent of the communities. There are a lot of issues still out there. We need these people to continue with the ongoing discussions for the socio-impact agreement and some of the sub-agreements that need to be done. We need to work with the communities to develop proposals and access some of the new federal funding that has come available and we have to continue towards facilitating conferences and things of that nature, to ensure our communities share the information. '

This has been something that has been raised to us in a number of situations. We have been lobbied by the aboriginal governments, the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, but we need to pay attention to the communities. This is a method of responding to that request. I guess if you believe there is no resource development out there, we wouldn't need these positions, but there is. It's in the different regions.

The other question that was raised was about where these were going to be located. The intention was to locate them in Inuvik and Norman Wells to deal with the pressures in those areas. So, Mr. Speaker, the process is still the biggest thing is to be able to represent the communities. The proponent for the pipeline has indicated to us that they need one voice to deal for the communities. The larger centres have had intervenor funding provided for them so they can deal with their own issues within the municipalities. All the other communities, aside from the four large centres, don't have any intervenor funding. So they would have to do it on their own. The proponent has indicated that they are not going to work with each community individually. They will deal with one government department. That department is MACA. If they need to go into the community, if they need to use the resources, there will be only one agency that they will deal with.

It is going to be very difficult to live up to all of those responsibilities if we don't have some positions dedicated to it. Mr. Speaker, in a nutshell, that is why we needed these positions. I am hoping that we are going to have the support that we can have these positions on the ground in the communities to deal with all of the pressures that they are facing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Mr. McLeod. Next I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The motion here, I am going to not support the motion, as my colleague from Inuvik has moved it, and also Members that want to see a deletion here.

Mr. Chair, I beg to differ from the opinion of my colleague from Kam Lake. There is a lot of activity happening in the Sahtu region. There are about six or seven companies that are very interested just in oil and gas. There are diamond mine explorations that are happening there, so there is...Again, I could talk later on with my colleague here in terms of activity that has happened in the past. I just got off the phone with Husky Energy. They are looking at some activity happening next year in the Sahtu region. We saw what it is like in the region for the impacts. These are just small-scale projects that they are calling 10 or 13 million dollars small ones. For our community, that is very huge and very big. We certainly need their help.

In Inuvik, in 2004, we sent representatives to the Inuvik conference. That was what the conference was asking

for, help from our government. Later on, I saw a conference happen in Norman Wells where MACA brought in a bunch of people also to other departments. They were asking for help. We don't do this. We leave them alone. There is no one there that is going to help our communities. They are going to be on their own. Did we do that down this way here when they had other activities happening? I don't know. Did we leave them alone to fend off with the diamond mines and other departments for impact benefits? I don't know. But we certainly listened to the people in my region to see the benefits of these impact advisors coming into our communities and working for us. I saw some of the work that has been done. I saw that it has been good work.

We are there to help the people. I think that is a good investment here of \$300,000. It is peanuts compared to what is coming down the pipeline. People's lives. We just talked about one issue here in the orders of the day. We talked about the impacts of the one issue that we are going to be dealing with. This socio-economic agreement is going to be dealing with our aboriginal governments, with the proponents, Mr. Chair. The benefits to the community far outweigh if we delete this funding here. The benefits, we are going to have more issues to deal with. By adding this in here, the benefits are going to be tremendous for our region.

Mr. Chair, the communities have been asking how do we get involved with the socio-economic agreements. How do we know when to kick our plans in? How do we work with these governments here? Mr. Chair, the timing of the pipeline, well, we could have a best guess as to when the pipeline is going to be built. You know how long it takes to be a journeyman, how many years. It is about four years. You go to school every day, hand in your reports and do the time. It is about four years to do it right on the button. If you drag, sort of take another year or so, these impact advisors can really help us in our communities in terms of preparing ourselves and getting ready to have this socio-economic agreement be honoured by Imperial and the proponents to this agreement. I am thinking here.

Mr. Chair, I think our communities deserve it. As for me, if we don't do this, we are going to throw them out to the wolves to fend for themselves. Some will do pretty good; some won't do so good. I am not sure as to why we want to have the deletion of this here. In 2004, the people asked us to help them. Now, in 2007, we are saying no, we are not going to help you anymore. So I want to say that to my Members here to really think this through. I won't be supporting the motion, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Next I have Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I will probably not even be voting on this motion. I haven't really decided yet, but I would like to hear everybody's arguments here. I know they are all good ones and they do all have a lot of weight that we have to consider. What I look at also is basically these are intervenor positions and resource development impact advisor positions, pipeline positions, whatever you want to call them, whatever title you want to give them, basically they are all pipeline driven. To me, the pipeline is not anywhere in the near future anymore. It is a couple or three years down the road. We do have a pipeline impact office that is supposed to, and should be I would think, doing all of this kind of resource development impact advisory role for the regions up and down the valley. On the flip side, there is all the federal government funding that has been thrown in the regions up and down

the valley to deal with the socio-economic impacts, resource development impacts and everything else that is going to be following with the pipeline. The federal government is doling out lots of money for that with this government included. There is also a lot of money sitting on the sidelines should that pipeline get the go ahead. There is around \$500 million that the federal government has sidelined for socio-economic impacts. So all of these things, we put them all in one pot, that is a lot of impact advisory dollars and stuff like that. To me, just throwing an extra \$300,000, I know it is not a whole lot of money when you look at the big picture, but I have to agree with some things that Mr. Braden was saying. Your value for money and this one is really hard to swallow. I understand Mr. Yakeleya's point of view. Sometimes the regions need the assistance and they need the advice of experts in resource development. But on the flip side also, sometimes the regions come out at the end of the day and say, gee whiz, we weren't given the right advice. We should have done it on our own. We didn't want it that way. Why is the government making decisions for us? There are always two sides to every argument on this one here.

I like to look at it on a human resource side of things that this government has. We have a lot of human resources out there and so do the communities. I would rather see maybe some of this money going right to the community level and saying, well, you give us an inventory of what you have in the community. I am sure they can pump it out in one day. I am sure a band manager or a community settlement manager can come back to MACA in one day and tell them everything about the community that they have and the people that they have available for resource development or what they should be doing to mitigate the impacts of resource development. That, for me, is a really tough call. I understand MACA's point of view too, that this has already been developed, researched and looked at. This is the conclusion that they have come to, but, again, it seems like this human resource growth in public service is just steamrolling ahead. It seems like we are getting ahead of ourselves in just hiring and hiring, like Mr. Ramsay said, knee-jerk reactions to needs that I think we should do some reprofiling and reassessing of exactly what those needs might be and how we can use the people at the community level more to address their own concerns as opposed to hiring somebody from wherever to go into communities and tell them what they should do or not do.

With that, I will just be reserving my decision until the vote. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Next I have Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Every region in the territory is being pressured by resource development. It may not be today; it may not be tomorrow; but they are coming. If they are not coming, they are already here. You have seen the maps of leases that the World Wildlife Fund put out. We also know that the community boundaries are not the extent of what affects communities. The communities are tied to the land and the water. They have been since time immemorial, especially the aboriginal communities.

We know that there is one region that has taken the proactive step to try to come to an agreement with the federal and territorial governments on a land use plan. It has been a protracted negotiation but, at the end of the day, they are going to be the only region that will have a

plan that identifies what is for development, what is for communities, what is for resource development and what is protected.

We are slowly, in a fragmented way, setting pieces in place that we can carry that process on into the 16th Assembly in macroeconomic policy. For example, they are supposed to give us a framework to be able to do that. We know that there is more than a pipeline coming down the valley. We met with the green corridor folks last week. They are saying part of the national impetus for this green power grid and corridor is to try to get 3,000 megawatts off the Mackenzie River, which means up by Inuvik. So you tack that on to the proposed pipeline, the timelines are 12 years for the dam on the Slave if they go ahead. So there are things happening. As the Member for the Sahtu said, there are companies in his riding as we speak wanting to explore, get ready for potential pipeline and once Imperial Oil is out of the picture or they fish or cut bait, the pipeline will be built because it is just too valuable a resource not to. The issue of being able to assess cumulative impact which we can't do as a territorial government, the issue of land use planning, which we have not formally set a path on yet, has to be done. These types of resources give us a leg up to do that. We have to look past this little supp, look down the road to the 16th Assembly and beyond and recognize that we can't always be playing catch up and we have to try and get ahead of this. Maybe we are not as well organized as we should be, but we have to keep working on that and recognize that we are going to get organized. To do that, we need resources.

I would suggest to you as well, there are areas where we are going to continue to need resources. If we are worried about the size of public service, there are ways to look internally at efficiencies and staff that aren't really doing the job. I would suggest to you that there are probably 10 to 15 percent of government staff that if deputy ministers were given the thumbs up, they would be able to replace or do without, but we don't because it is so difficult to get rid of people. So let's not cut off our nose despite our face because we want to keep the size of the public service down. The only way we are going to do it is to limit our ability to effectively deal with what is coming our way in terms of the resource development, the environmental impacts and the impacts on the basin, all of which we have not been able to determine or quantify. If we don't do that soon, then we will never do it and we will always be playing catch up.

Mr. Speaker, I would vote and encourage people to try to take a long view here and, yes, there is a zero-based review coming. In the meantime, there are also these other very pressing issues, structural issues, assessment issues, that we have to get ready for. It is going to be a fundamental issue in the next Assembly that we are going to have to deal with these issues. There are some of the pieces in place, but they are not there yet. This is one of the pieces. So I will be supporting this motion. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to add a few comments. Every once in a while we catch this wave of trying to slash or trying to make a point about our public service, somehow sort of creating an image of it being out of control, it is too fat, it should be cut, and look for value for money and such. I guess in a certain context we have to try to be efficient and such, but I don't know where that really comes from, because I think maybe the suggestion

might be we should all get out of this glass building here and go to communities and offices and see what the government workers are doing. For example, when I went to home care service in the bottom floor of the Jan Stirling Building, I had no idea what was going on. They were in a basement in a closet and they were delivering home care services all over Yellowknife. They are packed in a room. We don't know, my point is, what our workers are doing. It is easy for us to look at a paper and say, well, look at the title. It looks pretty fancy. What are they doing? They don't need their job and just cut it. For example, when we were in Tuk, we had a little bit of time there and some of us went to visit a child protection worker office there and environmental wildlife office. That is one man and one woman. That is the entire operation for the whole region. It is important to know that there are a lot of duties and work behind the positions that we are creating here.

Going back more specifically to MACA, I don't condone going to conferences down south unless Members have absolutely everything relevant to do, but I do think it is very useful to go to conferences being organized by MACA. I think, over the last couple of years, especially with the New Deal and many other initiatives being implemented by MACA, MACA has taken on training and capacity building of our communities single-handedly; honestly. If you go to those conferences and sit with the mayors and SAOs and everybody, they will tell you non-stop how much they need to build their community capacity. They have had these meetings every three months or so. Still, that is not enough. NWT Association of Communities is sort of taking on the role of having to train all of the community governments to get ready and to understand what the government is doing and maximizing the opportunities and such. I think we should just be very careful about lumping up the whole notion that the government is too big, fat and inefficient. Of course, there might be some examples of government workers that are not being used to their maximum, but I would point to the leadership in each division and each directorship to make government employees as efficient as possible. I think we have to be careful before we paint with a wide brush and just eliminate positions because somehow we don't think there is enough work there to do now.

The positions are not allocated. I want to know why there is not one in Yellowknife, because right now you have four positions, in Fort Simpson, Hay River, Inuvik and Norman Wells, and we don't know where they are going to be located because our briefing information is telling us that MACA is having difficulties finding employees. It is not like this is a sort of make work project and having to dole out jobs because there are more people than jobs to go around. The government has to stay competitive. We have to be a choice employer. We are not the choice employer anymore. There is certainly a lot of work to get the communities ready and community governments ready. That is the same thing for the family violence conference that I was talking about. If you just take time to listen to the community people, they will tell you that they need more community capacity.

I don't have any other information that would give me evidence to suggest that this is redundant or is repetitive. On that note, I am going to not support this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Ms. Lee. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Just for closing, I would like to recognize Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It was interesting listening to all of the discussion going around the room here. Had I known that the deletion of these two positions was going to bring the pipeline to a halt, the government to a standstill, then I wouldn't have moved it. What I have been hearing is things won't happen unless we get these two positions. I don't agree with that. Two hundred ninety-one thousand dollars can go towards a couple of nurses in the communities. Two hundred ninety-one thousand dollars could go to a dialysis machine in the Beaufort-Delta which is going to need one soon. We have people in our communities. We have community members, community leaders that will protect their people. They don't need these advisors to do that.

The Minister stated that one of these positions is going to go in Inuvik. I am a Member from Inuvik and I am thinking, well, he is taking a job away from Inuvik. No, I am not taking the job away from Inuvik because there wasn't a job there to begin with. What I am doing is I am trying to hold this government accountable. I want to hold them accountable for every nickel they spend. Otherwise, I might as well just get a bobblehead doll and sit here and flick his head like that and he could just sit there like that.

---Laughter

I appreciate the comments that went around the table. I know there is a lot of work that needs to be done as far as studying the resource development impact. We have enough advisors out there. We have our own people that are advisors. We have the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, all the way down. They have their own people as advisors. To say that the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and that have asked for this money and have asked for these kinds of positions, well, they have also asked for treatment centres. They have also asked for some other legitimate concerns and they don't get a cheque for \$291,000 just like that.

So, Mr. Chair, I appreciate all the comments that went around the table, but the Northwest Territories is not going to come to a standstill because we don't have these two impact advisor positions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Thank you.

On pages 11 and 12, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$19.999 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 12, sport, recreation and youth, not previously authorized, \$250,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$21.465 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, the one question I have is for the support that is going to help the operating costs for youth centres. I would like to ask the Minister in terms of what type of support that is going to be. How it is going to be dealt with, the 33 communities and some of the communities that have already existing youth centres and some non-government agencies that really got involved and did a lot of good fundraising? Some communities are small in terms of their level of funding, like Colville Lake or Tulita in those regions. I want to ask the Minister, are there different levels, requirements or criteria to access this funding here? Is that something that has already been discussed with the appropriate Minister in terms of how this money is going to be rolled out and when? Is it first-come, first-served? How is it going to be rolled out to the North here?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this fund, once approved, will be application-based and communities will be able to apply to a maximum of \$30,000 per community. Thank you.

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

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that we extend sitting hours beyond the normal hours of the adjournment to conclude the bill under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): The motion is in order. It is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Do you have a follow-up?

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going to have to apologize to the Minister in terms of his response. Can I ask him to repeat it, because I didn't have the mic on.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, once approved, this money will be eligible on an application base by communities, to a maximum of \$30,000. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$30,000 per community, up to \$30,000, I am not saying that they are going to give every community based on an application, first-come, first-served. It is application-based up to \$30,000, so it doesn't say a community will get \$30,000. Is it somewhat within the department to say that the Gwich'in, the Beaufort-Delta, Sahtu, Tlicho, South Slave and the North Slave here will get a certain percentage of the funding? Some communities might be a little slow coming out of the gate in terms of how this application is filled out and sent to the communities in Nahendeh in terms of this funding here. Some of them are pretty quick on the draw in terms of getting this application filled out here. I want to ask the Minister that.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is all community governments established under our legislation are eligible, as well as First Nation councils. They are Jean Marie River, Kakisa, Hay River Reserve, Lutselk'e Dene Band, Nahanni Butte Dene Band, Wrigley and Detah. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs may have further detail on that.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The intention of this program is to support the community operated youth centres. This pot of money would be targeted towards those youth centres on an application basis. With the maximum being \$30,000, any one community could apply for it and only one organization within that community. Right now, we are anticipating there are probably around nine youth centres that would be applying. If we have an intake of more than nine, then we would have to decrease the cap of \$30,000. That is what we are intending to do. It is really intended to supplement some of the fundraising that the youth centres are currently using and allow them to operate with a little more room to manoeuvre.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, would the new youth centres be eligible to qualify for this funding? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, consideration will be open to all applications, new and existing centres.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am very happy to see this item in the budget here. I have asked for it. Even if you had communities that apply for it, it would certainly help to offset the... They want to help the communities. They want to offset some of the stuff that is happening in communities because of some communities that don't have the youth centres open. Even certain amount of time through the months there, that they can have youth centres open, especially on Friday, Saturday and even Sunday nights, that the youth centre would be open to eliminate or to minimize the other stuff that is happening that sometimes has the youth be in trouble or deal with problems. I think that is really good. I think it is a good thing. I am glad to see that this is in the budget and is being looked at. I think the government has heard. I know it is not enough, but I certainly appreciate this being in there. The Minister indicated that there are probably nine youth centres that could be eligible for it and maybe more coming forward. We might have to reduce the... but at least it gives the start for some of the youth centres to get the doors open for them. It is better than nothing. That is what is happening right now. There is money only eligible for certain youth centres in the North and the rest are suffering, so I certainly welcome this. This is good news for me anyhow for the region. I look forward to the criteria. I hope the criteria doesn't hinder any youth centre organization in the community to not apply for this money. I hope it is a friendly application that people could have access to this and use it in better ways in terms of helping the youth stay away from behaviour that gets them in the newspaper or in one of the RCMP

stats. That is all I have to say. That is not so much of a question but more of a comment to the Ministers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Sport, recreation and youth, not previously authorized, \$250,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$21.465 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 13, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$193,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Asset management, not previously authorized, \$1.334 million. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chair, one of the initiatives outlined here, it is a new initiative. It is to provide funding for decommissioning and environmental remediation of tank farms in Fort McPherson and Wrigley to the tune of \$350,000. I wanted to ask, Mr. Chair, are these funds in any way being secured through the eco-Trust funding or any of these kinds of initiatives from Ottawa, or are they being handled in our regular course of business in managing our tank farms, Mr. Chair?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there is no money from the eco-Trust dollars going into this. This is part of the normal work that Public Works would be undertaking. With this process of some additional dollars, not from the eco-Trust but from our regular form of financing arrangement, with additional dollars, they requested that this be put back in. It was part of the new initiatives that they requested through the business plan, but it was not addressed as a lot of the new initiatives were. The Fort McPherson tank farm ceased delivery services in December of 2001. The last inventory from that tank farm was sold off in December 2003. The Wrigley tank farm ceased delivery services in July of 2002. The last inventory it had was sold off in the summer of 2004. They have been sitting there now. We need to proceed with decommissioning. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The total bill for this will be under the first of a three-year program, so the total cost for this work on these two tank farms is \$1.3 million over three years for decommissioning and environmental remediation. Could the Minister give us a bit of an idea how much to actually do the tear down and then how much for remediation out of that \$1.3 million allocation, Mr. Chair?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't have the actual dollar breakdown per job. What we do have, for example, Fort McPherson in 2007-08, decommissioning of the tank farm and resupply pipelines will be carried out. In 2008-09, hydrocarbon remediation as well as 2009-10 and then the final report. Wrigley in 2008-09 is decommission, resupply pipeline,

shore manifold with catchment basin and dispenser cabinets and then the hydrocarbon as well and hydrocarbon remediation as well in 2009-10 and then the final report. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Page 13, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$1.334 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$1.527 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 14 and 15, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$24,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted a little bit more information on the Northern Women's Health Program, \$116,000. It looks like that is a PY. I am just wondering how that position would relate to the Aboriginal Wellness Program.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is right; the funding of \$116,000 will fund a nursing position. The position will be located in Yellowknife and will be part of the services offered by the Stanton Territorial Health Authority working with the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority and remote communities. It will work at implementing a coordinated Prenatal Care Program for the NWT and facilitating an educational-based program for health care professionals delivering prenatal care in the NWT. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. How is prenatal care coordinated in the NWT today? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, health authorities right now have delivery of that program. The department does work with them in trying to set up an overall program. I feel that this is needed to help improve on that delivery aspect of it. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: That is good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Page 14 and 15, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$24,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$741,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Health services programs, not previously authorized, page 14 and page 15, \$10.071 million. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have had this discussion with the Minister before in committee regarding the deficit situation at some of our health boards at Stanton and the Beaufort-Delta. Am I to understand too that there is some deficit accruing in the Sahtu as well? I would like the Minister to elaborate a little bit on what the plan is to better manage these facilities and these boards if they are allowed to run up what amounts in the last few years here over \$10 million in deficit and then come back to supplementary appropriation to, in effect, wipe out their deficit. That is not a very good way to manage anything, if you ask me, Mr. Chair. Again, I just wanted to be clear on what the Department of Health and Social Services' plan is going forward. There has been some discussion regarding are we underfunding. Is the department not paying attention to what is going on out there? Is it poor management? What is it? Or is it a variety of different things? That hasn't been clearly spelled out for the Members of this House. All that we are expected to do is just rubberstamp a supplementary appropriation every six months. Wiping out a million dollars in accrued deficit doesn't faze anybody. Mr. Chair, I think it should faze us. I think we should get to the bottom of it, and we should try to come up with a plan or run our health system more effectively so that we are not faced with this issue every six months. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the information we provided shows that the deficit situation or surplus situation fluctuates. Unfortunately, we do have a number of years where there is an operating deficit and it grows into accumulated deficit and continues to grow. We have worked with authorities on the program where if there is a projected deficit and it is realized at year end that there is a 50 percent, we will work with them to try to fund it. They would be asked to look at their expenditures and come up with 50 percent of that plan through the budget that they would be approved with. One of the other things we have looked at is the actual process that we have worked with in cooperation with the Department of Health and Social Services, Financial Management Board Secretariat, and Stanton Territorial Health Authority, is looking at the spending requirements and looked at a program to do a base review of the expenditures. With that information, then we would be able to do better planning around budget development. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is good. The base review is going to be conducted at Stanton, but is there also going to be a base review done in the Beaufort-Delta and the Sahtu as well? Again, it is a systemic problem here. It is one that recurs over and over again. If boards are unable to manage what they have, then there has to be a reason for that. Is it mismanagement? Is it underfunding? What would the Minister attribute the chronic deficit situation seen in the Beaufort-Delta, the Sahtu and here at Stanton too? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it fluctuates from year to year. For example, southern placements where we have patients going to southern facilities, that being in Alberta or other

jurisdictions, as health care is driven by the health of our constituents and people of the North. You could have one case where the procedures required are very expensive and the time out could be long in duration. That could significantly impact our out-of-territory costs. That is one of the areas. As well, if we have more clients stationed out in the South for longer terms, that does add up to the cost, as well as some of the forced growth items when it comes to just the utility and operations of our facilities in the North is another area. With what we are doing now, the base review process is established now. We will use it with Stanton and that will be used with every health authority as well. That is going to be the model we will use, the tool that we will use to look at our expenditure patterns and work to fixing the areas that need to be fixed. If we are finding areas of over-expenditures, then they would have to be justified as well. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to wrap this up, again, I know we talked about this at length now, but, to me, if we don't send the message out there that it is not okay to run up huge deficits and come back to the Legislative Assembly to have us rubberstamp basically saying it is okay. You can run up a \$7 million deficit. It is okay. We are just going to rubberstamp it and approve it anyway. I don't think that is the message that I want to get out there. I think these health operations in the regions have to be run effectively and they have to be managed effectively. They have to be funded effectively and judging by the deficits that have been allowed to accrue, that is not happening, for whatever reason. It is not being looked after properly, Mr. Chair. So I think it is a big problem. I think the Minister understands what I am trying to say here. It shouldn't happen. In a perfect world, I guess, it wouldn't happen. But how do we get the message out there to the Beaufort-Delta and to Stanton that this just can't happen? Maybe it is the department that is the problem. I am not sure. Maybe there has to be some kind of investigation with the department to try to figure out why this is happening. Are they underfunding Stanton? Are they underfunding the Beaufort-Delta? Are the Beaufort-Delta and Stanton being mismanaged? Those are questions we have to ask ourselves every time we are asked to rubberstamp this case \$3.5 million and \$1.6 million in the Beaufort-Delta. It adds up. Like I said, it is over \$10 million in the past little while. We should be paying attention to this. We spend 30 percent of our budget on health care. It is something we should pay close attention to. We should try to monitor it properly. This isn't good monitoring, in my book, Mr. Chair. Again, we are just forced to accept the deficit and pay it. That is it.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the process is we start right from square one. For example, as the Department of Health and Social Services builds its budget, it goes to all the health authorities and they submit a budget for the upcoming year. Those budgets are based somewhat on the actuals they had in the previous year with some estimates of what the potential may be on certain areas. If the population has grown, if they have seen an example of certain sicknesses at different times of the year, that has an impact on their budget. Some of it is built on estimates. Those, in all worlds, are not the perfect tool. At times we

find that those estimates are not agreed to either by the Department of Health and Social Services or by FMB itself, where the direction has gone back to re-look at the numbers and prove up some of those figures.

The question ultimately I guess comes down to the fact that, in our relationship, the Department of Health and Social Services builds the budget, works with authorities, brings that budget into the whole process where we review every department's budget, we build it on that, come forward with that. But at the same time, when it comes to the variance reports, getting the background and the quarterly reports as to where expenditures are happening, if authorities aren't quick in responding, that puts us behind the ball in trying to get the information appropriately. What you see here is not just a matter of rubberstamping. There has been significant work done by FMBS and the Department of Health and Social Services, trying to come to grips of why the numbers fluctuate as much as they do. That is why, for example, the base review has been established. I would be happy to share the terms of the base review with Members. I will provide that information to Members so that Members will see what is going to be undertaken as we proceed with this. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question under 2007-08 new initiative for \$100,000 for delivery of ground ambulance and highway rescue services. It is on page 14, just before the hospital federal health care funding priorities. I know that this is something that has been in the works for a while because there is unclear jurisdiction and responsibilities with respect to this and lack of consistent rules about who is responsible for paying for ground ambulance and highway rescue services. I know there has been a study done on this to figure out what to do between Health and Social Services and MACA, but I wasn't aware that the new initiative will be by way of developing a legislative framework. I thought that there was some money being made available for the communities to tap into. Although that program is not available for cities like Yellowknife, which is a problem, but it is a first step anyway in trying to get some infrastructure set up for that. I would like to ask the Minister for more information on what this \$100,000 is for and how that fits into the more general, larger framework of this initiative. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the report that was done on the ambulance and highway rescue, what you see here is the first phase of it. The \$100,000 is the Department of Health and Social Services' piece. That is working on creating the legislation. Municipal and Community Affairs has \$200,000 that is available to communities that are delivering their own ambulance services at this time. There were a number of options in the final report, five of them to be exact. One, for example, was option one which was the status quo, no changes, let everybody do what they are doing. Option 1(a) was status quo with some minor enhancements. Option 2 was the status quo with GNWT legislation, and option 3 was GNWT legislates and delivers ground ambulance and highway rescue services. Option 4 was GNWT legislates ground ambulance and highway rescue services and contracts services for the private sector. What the Department of

Health and Social Services and Municipal and Community Affairs are working towards is option 3. So we are looking at the first stages of dealing with those communities that provide that service on their own. There are a number of communities that it is delivered through health authorities. So that is being left as it is. The Department of Health and Social Services is working on creation of the legislation that is required to begin to occupy that field. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: So would that legislation then work for all the communities? So the GNWT will legislate themselves into this responsibility, basically.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, right now there is a void there in legislation. That is why it is in a number of areas where different groups are offering the service. So we will create the legislation and then occupy the field. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you. Just to be clear then, this is for the drafting of the law. How long will that take to bring forward? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the department is planning to begin this work in this upcoming year and returning to the business planning process for 2008-2011 to try to come up with how we would fit in there. It was initially over a three-year period to come in with the legislation and how we were going to implement. We have been directed to try to cut that down to bring this up to speed sooner rather than later. Thank you.

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I notice under the Health Services Program, Dialysis Program in the Stanton Territorial Hospital for \$96,000. Are there any plans to bring the Dialysis Program up to the Beaufort-Delta? We don't have it right now. My understanding is that we may need it soon. Are there any plans to start investing some money into the Dialysis Program for the Beaufort-Delta?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, as we would work with the authorities, if they were requesting areas of forced growth, if they had patients that needed the service, they would begin through their budget planning exercise along with the Department of Health and Social Services. Right now, there is a program laid out. I don't have that with me at this point, but we will provide that to Members as to where we have communities slated on the business plan as we proceed or the Department of Health and Social Services proceeds. I will have that information provided to the Members. Thank you.

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Once any information that the Minister can provide, does it have a timeline as to the earliest that they can expect to see a Dialysis Program up in the Beaufort-Delta? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. We will get that information as well and that earlier commitment. We will combine them. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. We are on page 14, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, Health Services Program, \$10.071 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$2.740 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, not previously authorized, \$13.528 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Moving on, then, to Justice, operations expenditures, services to government, not previously authorized, \$107,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Law enforcement, not previously authorized, \$420,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Legal aid services, not previously authorized, \$21,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Courts, \$216,000, not previously authorized.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$538,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a question on page 16 about the increased funding for court services. It states there that it is for the increased cost due to higher utilization. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us as to why there is higher utilization of court services.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the increased utilization numbers have been looked at. There has been an increase in this area due to crime in the NWT unfortunately, but it is there. Fifty percent increase since 2000. The courts are feeling the pressure as a result of that. Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am wondering if this means that we may be going toward having to have another Territorial Court judge at the territorial level, not at

the Supreme Court level. This is something that came up. For example, when we were dealing with public hearings on the Child and Family Services Act where there will be an apprehension time that might be brought forward more. We also recently passed legislation that would increase the access for legal aid lawyers and generally there is a slow process in the courts. The number of Territorial Court judges, I think there are four Territorial Court judges. That hasn't gone up in a very long time. I am wondering if it is adequate to just increase these court officers dollars and not for the judge. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I am not aware if there is a request for additional judges. The department will have to put that in through the business plan process if it were to make that request. What we do have is, for example, late in 2006, there were a number of court scheduled matters and there was no sheriff officers available. That is where the pressure is being felt in trying to come up with the staff to ensure that court proceedings can proceed. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Can we have some order in the Chamber? Thank you. Justice, operations expenditures, courts, not previously authorized, \$216,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$538,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.302 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, directorate and administration, not previously authorized, \$61,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$4.082 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. One question I have for the Minister is the language services of the Northwest Territories. In terms of the request, is this type of funding to...I am going to make the presumption to strengthen our aboriginal languages more than what we are receiving right now. What is this funding for in terms of having these services in the North here? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this is a contribution agreement we received from the federal government, the NWT, a Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages in the NWT, and this is money used by the departments to provide services in those languages in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Madam Chair, the funding is used by the departments in the GNWT to provide aboriginal services in the various sectors. I imagine that is needed. For example, the courts, Health, Social Services, Education. Is that money being used right across the board here?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the Member is correct. The way it breaks down is the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has been entering into an agreement with Canadian Heritage since 1999-2000. The yearly funds have remained at \$1.6 million for French and \$1.9 for aboriginal language right up until 2006-08. So it's been consistent throughout the time and used for the purposes as the Member has highlighted. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$4.082 million. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just have one question regarding Mildred Hall in Yellowknife for \$1.076 million. I thought at that time last year that all the renovations were completed. Can the Minister explain?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The amounts here identified are for capital carry-overs, so the work that was not completed at the time would be carried over. There is some work that is left to be completed under Mildred Hall. As well, for further information, because it is not our asset, that's why we find it under operations, not capital carry-over. That's later on in this document.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$4.082 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Madam Chair, the capital infrastructure for community libraries is \$50,000. Is that all the government can come up with for infrastructure for community libraries in the North here? Is this right across the Northwest Territories? Thanks.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this is a fund provided through Education, Culture and Employment and I am told yes it is, that is it. Thank you.

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

Mr. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have seen some of the libraries in our communities and I know some of the people who work hard and they are certainly pushing people to volunteer or support their community's libraries. We have initiatives such as literacy programs and to support our children and certainly have money there for our community libraries, and \$50,000 for a community is something I am hoping the Minister would look at improving or increasing in terms of really putting the meat to the bones in terms of literacy programs.

Some communities have really nice community libraries and some are in pretty rough shape, a shambles. I know \$50,000 is not much, it's peanuts to support our

community library, so I would ask that the Minister would give some explanation as to how this \$50,000 got in here. I think that's quite alarming to see this in here to support our community libraries. I would like to ask that to the Minister, Madam Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this fund, as we look more into the detail, this fund is actually as we repair schools or renovate or put new schools in place, part of the capital program is for library function in that facility. The \$50,000 is actually part of a carry-over for the Tulita school library. So it's in part of the package and will be part of that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$4.082 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$692,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Moving on to page 19, income security, not previously authorized, \$3.594 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$8.429 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Transportation, operations expenditures, corporate services, not previously authorized, \$475,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Airports, not previously authorized, \$165,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Highways, not previously authorized, \$583,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Ferries, not previously authorized, \$355,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Road licensing and safety, not previously authorized, \$27,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.605 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Madam Chair, I would like to ask the Minister...I have met with some of my constituents, specifically the people in Norman Wells. In terms of the airport studies and feasibility studies on the extension of the runway in some of the small communities in the North, I didn't see any type of initiative here. Is this something that has already been undertaken in terms of the year 2010. That's the deadline that NAV Can has given us in terms of complying with the regulations for airports. I want to ask that to the Minister.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the Department of Transportation with this supplementary request has not requested any funding to do any work in that area. If they are, it would be under their normal business plan process. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.605 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I just want to point out to the Members that the air has now been turned off in the building, so we should proceed quickly.

---Laughter

Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, not previously authorized, corporate management, \$17,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, not previously authorized, \$3.365 million. Mr. Braden.

Committee Motion 2-15(6): Transfer Of Funding To The Review Of Electricity Regulation, Rates And Subsidy Programs From ITI To The Executive, Carried

MR. BRADEN: Madam Chair, I will use up as little air as possible. I move that this committee recommends that the funding for the review of electricity regulation, rates and subsidy programs in the amount of \$150,000 under the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, not previously authorized on page 22, be transferred to the activity Executive offices within the Department of the Executive. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. The motion is being circulated. I will wait until Members all have a copy of it. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Madam Chair, the context of this is this is an absolutely essential initiative. In fact, we had a motion just yesterday that discussed items very much related to this. So here we are, it's reflected to at least some degree, if not a very large degree, in this supp. There is \$150,000 earmarked for a review of electricity regulation rates and subsidy programs. Madam Chair, by and large, our assessment in committee is this is an initiative that deals with very high level policy, very likely legislation and some fairly significant financial commitments over time. We felt that it would be far more appropriate that it is handled within that branch of our government that does deal with these higher level initiatives than in Industry, Tourism and Investment, which I think is largely a program function department. So that is the reason for this recommendation, Madam Chair. It has a significant impact on the operations and expenditures of this government and I think is better handled in the auspices of the Executive department, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Okay. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, energy, mines and petroleum resources, not previously authorized, \$3.365 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Economic development, not previously authorized, \$430,000. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Just a question, Madam Chair, the Take a Kid Trapping Program. I am wondering if this is accessible by schools. I know that in Yellowknife, YK1 does do this program. I am not sure if they do it under their own funding or they are accessing other government programs. I see that this is a new initiative. I would like to know who is the client base that this program is aimed at. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the idea is the department has been involved in this program since 2001-2002 and found it to be successful. They have tied it together under their program under the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program. They felt that this was a worthwhile initiative to continue on this work. It is available in all areas of the territory, I believe. Maybe the Minister may have further details.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Madam Chair, I think the Minister mentioned successful since '01, its inception. Since 2003, 3,000 students have been through the program. We collaborate with ENR and MACA. We get great cooperation from the schools obviously. We are in the schools delivering this program, working with the schools. We also work with local regional wildlife organizations. We've had great success in the Sahtu with the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board. We have been dealing with band councils, Metis associations. So it's been very well received and continues to grow. I don't think we have seen the program enrolled in every region, but that is the aim. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. Is this a top up to the existing budget or are we allocating a budget to something that has been done without a budget?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the department used to fund it internally but as cost pressures within the department have grown, they felt they needed to request this. Again, it was one of the new initiatives that we parked until we had a better indication of where the federal budget was going. This is also a cost-shared program. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Bell. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. I just want to give my support to this program. I know that it may seem that this kind of program may not be applicable to Yellowknife, but Yellowknife is the biggest aboriginal population in the Territories. I know that in our schools, this has been delivered with a very close relationship with the ENR office in Yellowknife. They take dozens of kids out for a week or so and they teach them how to trap. I know that kids get a lot out of this experience. I would say \$125,000 is not enough to cover all the communities. The schools probably fund some of the money out of their outdoor and aboriginal program money. I think it's about time that the government is putting some money into this and there is probably a lot more room here for more money to go into. Every child should be able to partake in this. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. I didn't hear a question there. I will take that as a comment. Economic development, not previously authorized, \$430,000. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Just a comment on Ms. Lee's previous discussion and her comments. Madam Chair, the Take a Kid Trapping Program, does the department work with other agencies to enhance it, to include that certain part of a child's education is included? This is a real good program. This is the life of a child here. This is the one that will work good in our communities, in terms of education here. It has so many opportunities and we are contributing \$125,000 to the whole Northwest Territories. We went to different regions in the North. We know it's not very much. I haven't seen anything yet from the department to show me this program could be enhanced by working with other departments; MACA, Health, Education, Justice, all these things that could get the child on the land, get the child to understand their aboriginal ancestors. As Ms. Lee said, I know some children went from here to Behchoko by dog team. That's a real good opportunity. I heard on the radio the other day that children in Fort Smith were out in the bush for spring. Trapping is alive and well in the Northwest Territories. So why don't we support something that is going to be here for a long time? Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the department works with the school boards and other agencies. This is a cost-shared program between the Department of ITI as well as the Minister responsible for youth on a 50/50 basis, giving it a total of \$250,000 for this area. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Economic development, not previously authorized, \$430,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$3.812 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$339,000. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. There is a line here to provide funding for the GNWT's portion of the Interim Resource Management Assistance Program.

Madam Chair, who and what are we assisting under this program? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this is jointly funded between the federal government, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and ourselves. That is our portion of it, \$305,000; 25 percent is our portion. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to know exactly what are we assisting or who are we assisting, what is this money actually performing or producing? Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the goal of the Interim Resource Management Assistance Program is to enable communities in the unsettled claim areas to develop and maintain capacity in three main areas; one, reviewing licence permit applications for land and water use; forced resource use, tourism, scientific or wildlife research, oil and gas rights and issuances and related matters; two, consultation and participation, environmental assessments, having potential impacts on land and resources; and, three, enhancing the ability to participate in consultations related to resource management policy and legislation. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Okay, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$339,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Environmental protection, not previously authorized, \$1.979 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Forest management, not previously authorized, \$195,000. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. If the Minister could further explain in detail, we have an item listed as \$221,000 to provide funding to ensure GNWT's interest in current and emerging water management issues are maintained. Maybe he could explain what that statement means. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the issue of water management in the NWT is one that has been raised a number of times. The departments of Health and Social Services, Municipal and Community Affairs and Public Works have worked in this area to come up with either the technical side of this, as well as the inspection side and the training side. This money is requested to effectively carry out responsibilities and meet the demands and it's requesting two new person years as well as company O and M that is required. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So this would be somebody who travels around and checks our water, or is this somebody who deals with the agreements or transboundary agreements, etcetera?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Which item are you under, Mr. Hawkins?

MR. HAWKINS: I haven't changed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: I am on page 23.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): ...environmental protection?

MR. HAWKINS: Yes, still there.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the one position would be water policy analyst for policy legislation and communication division. That's to provide expertise of territorial and inter-jurisdictional water management policy matters. The other position would be water technical advisor for the environmental protection division to assess impacts of development upstream of the NWT and contribute technical advice on water quality and water quantity issues. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Wouldn't we be providing this service already in our environmental protection unit to manage and evaluate water related issues specific to types of development? Wouldn't it be incumbent upon the developer to provide an environmental impact statement as to what will happen? I am just trying to get a sense of...Are we here to verify their information? I understand the policy, but it just seems like a large...I would have thought we would be doing that through the environmental protection unit.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, during the winter session of the 15th Legislative Assembly this year, the issue of water took a very prominent role and some direction was provided to play a more prominent role in the whole area of water issues and transboundary issues. Up to now, we have had half a PY, half a policy analyst position that was assuming all the water management activities. The issue of water has certainly been cranked up the last while and there is a need now to work with other Government of the Northwest Territories departments to deal with the drinking water strategy and framework. We also need to participate with the Mackenzie River Basin Board and all the subcommittees and work on the state of the aquatic ecosystems report negotiations that is coming out in 2009. As a result of some of the discussion that took place to have more communication, we are planning to put together and find partners to host an NWT water forum. We would like to do that this summer and follow up during the winter months with a new government. Hopefully we will have a water summit that would bring in all the players we need, to bring in all the information under one roof and be able to share it. We are hoping to get issues and direction from all the stakeholders and all the governments that are involved and are affected by water under one roof and start getting our own house in order.

The other thing we have to do is we still have a lot of work to do in terms of lobbying the multi-stakeholder committee on the oil sands development. We need to have ongoing dialogue with the upstream jurisdictions, Alberta government and B.C. government and also the federal government to show and voice our concerns about the impacts of water and projects around water. There is a lot of research and communication and education and working with community and regional agencies on water management program and matters that have to be done.

So these, along with the direction to complete the Bilateral Water Management Agreement with Alberta as quickly as possible, resulted for us to review what we had. We had half a position and we wanted to target how we could accomplish all these things. We targeted two positions. One is a water policy analyst that would work on negotiations on the Alberta/NWT Bilateral Water Management Agreement and also the bilateral agreements with B.C. and Saskatchewan. They would also go back and work with some of the components of the Yukon/NWT Bilateral Agreement that need to be updated. We need to work on a water forum to inform and engage all the stakeholders in the management issues. We have to start looking at some legislation and policy review to identify and strengthen the government's capability in safeguarding drinking water. I mentioned the water summit we would like to have and ongoing discussions to educate the Government of the Northwest Territories personnel.

The other position we are looking at is a water technical advisor that would work in the area of developing and implementing an action plan for intervention in the oil sands development projects and to do assessment on water quality and quantity, and aquatic ecosystems and the impacts of upstream developments. Also to ensure that there is effective participation in inter-jurisdictional technical committees supporting transboundary water management.

So there is a lot of work that has been scheduled and has been put on our plate the last while and has resulted in this looking at trying to secure some additional positions.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the detailed information from the Minister. I thought he was running the clock on me. Mr. Chair, I thought, if I understand it correctly, the Akaitcho are going to run a water summit coming up here. I am not sure why the Minister would want to be running one as well. I don't know if he is competing or enhancing it some other way, but I am just curious on this technical advisor detail and then you went on further to talk about the impacts of oil sands. I am surprised you are not going off to an area in discussion that talks about reaching CPAWS and things like that to get them to do the work I bet you could make a small contribution to them and they would be quite pleased to help and share information. You did talk about updating the Yukon and NWT transboundary agreement, but I have heard you say in the past that that was one of the easiest agreements we've had and it's already in place. If I understand it correctly, the other transboundary agreements right now are sitting idle. Although I am sure they are being looked at, but they are sitting idle until B.C. works with Alberta to sort that out. I am just trying to get a sense of that. There seems to be a lot of work here. I am just trying to get a sense of if it's realistic, is some of this already being done?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: ...the concept of going to find partners such as CPAWS and the Canadian Boreal Initiative and those types of partners is something we are working on. However, we need somebody to do the actual legwork. We need partners to be able to come forward and help us put the budget together for our water summit, similar to what we have done with the caribou summit where we brought in a number of partners. They have contributed towards a gathering. We need to be able to do that. We didn't have anything in our budget for this coming year to do a water conference. It's obvious that we need to have one to get our house in order and have all the different information that is out there to be brought under one roof and to have that discussion.

The Akaitcho, I haven't heard that they are planning to have a water summit. I know there was discussion to have a water summit in Fort Smith. I am not sure if that is the Akaitcho group, but we would like to talk to them and possibly work with them. However, the focus of the water summit or the water conference would be to bring all the players together from the different areas.

As to the agreement sitting idle while B.C. and Alberta negotiate it is not the case. We need to work parallel. We have agreed to start moving that forward. They've recently agreed that that would be the case and it has allowed us to sign the framework agreement. We have to start now doing the actual work on it. We don't really have the resources and it wasn't built into our budget to do this. Some of these things have come forward rather unexpectedly and we are trying to develop the resources or put the resources into place to be able to deal with them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Environmental protect, not previously authorized, \$1.979 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Forest management, not previously authorized, \$195,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Wildlife, not previously authorized, \$991,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$3.504 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 25, Legislative Assembly, capital investment expenditures, Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$539,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$539,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 26, Executive, capital investment expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$154,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total Financial Management Board Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$154,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total Executive, not previously authorized, \$154,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 27, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital investment expenditures, community operations, not previously authorized, \$818,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$3.750 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$4.568 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 28, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$2.040 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Technology Service Centre, not previously authorized, \$862,000. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I have a question for the Minister. Mr. Chair, the funding for conversion of the JBT Elementary School and Thebacha Campus for the fuel fire heat to interruptible hydroelectric heat, is that something that is going to be a model for other centres or just a one time for the community of Fort Smith? I just want to know if that's going to be something that is going to be used in other regions in helping them with their hydroelectrical heat, I guess. Is it a pilot project?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Before I continue, I would like to recognize a couple of people up in the gallery: Tyler Dent and Ben Malmsten. Thank you for coming in today.

---Applause

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the area of the work, the conversion on the three facilities in Fort Smith is a pilot project. Based on the results of that as well as the availability of electricity through the hydro facility, they would be looked at once this is completed. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the amount that we are spending, the pilot project that is going to be, is this going to be used in other areas in terms of the conversion? I want to ask the Minister that, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the reason this is being looked at is the availability of low cost electricity off the hydro facility by the community of Fort Smith looking to switch off from the oil fire to electric heat. That is why this is being looked at. One of the things we have to look at is the availability, number one in that area, if there is continued availability of the surplus capacity at the Taltson hydro facility. In other communities in the Northwest Territories, it would be more difficult to make this pay because of the high cost of generating the electricity through other communities that are provided through diesel fired generators. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Page 28, asset management, not previously authorized, \$2.040 million. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on the same matter as Mr. Yakeleya was raising but on a different screen, what was the valuation on how much money they would save by switching over when you consider the money of just over \$900,000 to do all this conversion? How much money are they looking at saving over what predictable lifespan are they talking about? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, looking at the cost of the electricity through the facility and in comparison to the price of home heating oil, it was felt that the recovery of the cost could be done in three to five years.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That just seems too good to be true. Is he saying that even with the increase in the power bill, the offsetting difference between what is estimated for the fuel price and that, that we would be able to pay for this project within three to five years? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with the information and the work between the department and the supplier of power, it's felt that they could, again varying on the price of home heating oil as it fluctuates, they could recover these costs in a matter of three to five years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Well, I did not believe him the first time, but now that we have this newfound revelation before us, will this be the only project or is he anticipating more projects to come forward in the near future? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the idea is to look at if this in fact can be achieved, and the second piece of this is the availability of the hydroelectricity beyond the window that is being looked at: about six years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$2.040 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Technology Service Centre, not previously authorized, \$862,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$6.861 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$9.763 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 29, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$8.947 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$4.966 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$13.933 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Health and Social Services programs, one of the issues I did come across, Mr. Chair, the air conditioning in the Sahtu; specifically Tulita, and the unbearable heat in those small communities that don't have air conditioning. We have people come in and out of the centres. I know with climate change now, it's starting to warm up in the middle of June, July and August, and it's dusty and the type of ventilation...I guess I'm looking in here, Mr. Chairman, in terms of this budget here the Minister has just put before us that takes care of this issue for us in terms of the expenditures of the health and social services in our region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. May I remind Members to just stick to the detail of the information that's provided. Maybe I'll just ask the Minister if he'd like to respond. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount of the overall projects here are the ones that we've requested for small equipment, for example, under the health services programs, equipment over \$58,000 is the total request here is \$1.2 million. More importantly probably, near the top is a Norman Wells new physician exam room. Some of that money is also looking at air conditioning availability in that facility is one of the areas we would look at. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$13.933 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 30, Justice, capital investment expenditures, services to government, not previously authorized, \$80,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Legal aid services, not previously authorized, \$205,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Courts, not previously authorized, \$3.545 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$438,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Services to public, not previously authorized, \$60,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$4.328 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 31, Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$14.032 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm still surprised to see the project for Grandfather Ayah School in terms of the upgrades is \$40,000 and it's been there for...Can I ask the Minister in terms of what this \$40,000 for the upgrades in Ayah School?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the \$40,000 is for the ramp at the Grandfather Ayah School.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, could I ask the Minister, then, if some time in the couple months ahead that should we get overall approval in terms of getting the go-ahead with this ramp to be built in the Ayah School, because I think it's long overdue. So could I ask the Minister for that commitment? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, the idea is to proceed with that work. What happened in the previous year was after examining the pile foundation under that facility, the money was reallocated to do repairs. With that being completed, the focus is now to complete the work with the ramp. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Education and Culture, not previously authorized, \$14.032 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$5.316 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$19.348 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 32 and 33, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$3.677 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Highways, not previously authorized, \$17.523 million. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've been undertaking several debates and discussions about the proposed Deh Cho Bridge, and there's an item here, a new initiative proposed, Mr. Chairman, to provide funding for small capital projects in Fort Providence as follows: an ice bridge lite track vehicle for \$275,000 and two ice spray pumps for \$350,000; a total of \$625,000. Mr. Chairman,

I'd like to find out what is the requirement to spend this money now if we are potentially going to be looking at a permanent bridge within the next three years maybe. Is it necessary to spend this money now considering that we're already looking for money to help pay for the real thing, Mr. Chairman?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Transportation has requested these funds for replacement of equipment, I believe. Maybe the Minister himself can provide more detail to that.

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

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new initiatives for the ice bridge track vehicle, I'm going to have to double check on this. I believe it is a replacement of an existing old piece of equipment that's there, and then two new ice spray pumps. The request here is to have new equipment as well as the ice spray pumps is going to help us speed up the ice bridge, to have it operating earlier and getting the equipment out there sooner and, of course, thickening the ice. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you. I certainly appreciate the need for them. If there's a way of augmenting the equipment down there and getting the bridge open sooner and making it safe, that's great. But let's perhaps look at the bright side of things, Mr. Chairman. In two or three or maybe four years we're going to have a bridge. We're not going to need lite track vehicles or ice spray pumps. Instead of spending \$625,000 for what would then be obsolete or unneeded equipment, would the department look at renting or leasing or getting the private sector to supply these services? Why do we have to invest this kind of money in equipment that's going to be used, I'm assuming here, but for a few short weeks of the year, Mr. Chairman? Are there options rather than spending money on equipment that really doesn't get used to its fullest extent, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you. Can I have order, please. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the reason they are coming forward, as the Minister stated, is to enhance the ability to quicken the construction of the winter ice crossings. If things proceed as planned and the Deh Cho Bridge is built, this equipment then can be redeployed to other areas in the territory where we continue to use ice bridges for highways. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Okay, I won't beat away on it, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: Beat away.

MR. BRADEN: But I hope that perhaps the point has been made here, that just going out and continuing to buy and spend taxpayers' money on stuff that wears out and breaks down and doesn't get used potentially as much as it could have, there are options, as I asked about, with leasing, with getting the private sector to supply the service as and when needed, rather than investing

taxpayers' money in this kind of capital expense. That's all, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. I didn't hear any question there. Next I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see a lot of work being done on the Highways No. 4, No. 8 and No. 1 reconstruction and paving. Huge numbers there. I don't see No. 5 there. So, Mr. Chairman, these highways in terms of reconstruction, what can the Minister tell me about the huge amounts of money that's going into reconstruction and paving? I see nothing in our region in terms of realignment of our winter roads and realignment of some of the danger spots there. There's lots of money in reconstruction and paving on these highways, so maybe I could ask the Minister to get a little more specific in terms of where do I want to ask the questions on the winter road.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the whole list of projects here identified is for the carry-over of either reconstruction or work that was being done that could not be done in '06-07 and has been requested to carry the money forward for '07-08. So it's not a new project. It's a project that's already been approved and they weren't able to complete the work. For example, on Highway No. 4, I understand it was due to not being able to get the work done in the season as part of the weather patterns as well as getting some of the work itself done. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I know our winter roads disappear every year and they come back again. So I want to ask the Minister in terms of when I see the budget Mackenzie Highway winter roads, I noticed other communities outside my region also have these winter roads. But there's some dangerous spots in my region that certainly need some attention in terms of going from Wrigley to Tulita, Tulita to Deline. There are some roads that certainly need some reconstruction, and certainly from Norman Wells to Good Hope or even to Colville. I would ask the Minister if there is anything in the detailed plans in terms of looking at some of these roads that require some safety and some reconstruction work, or realignment as they like to call it. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Mackenzie Highway winter road program is a cost-shared program and it's through the Canadian strategic infrastructure fund package. So that's how this funding works. The carry-over is to help continue the bridge construction at Blackwater River and Bob's Canyon Creek in '07-08. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I have driven Bob's Canyon Creek and I certainly appreciate the Minister looking at that area. I've driven, I've floated across Blackwater River. I certainly appreciate the Minister putting some work into that area, I applaud the Minister also. My question to the Minister on the Mackenzie winter roadwork is in terms of the realignment of some of the

dangerous roads in our region. Again I'm going to point specifically to an area just outside of Deline where it's very windy, like a snake. Lots of work went in there in terms of an oil company going in there. Big loads, narrow roads, and money is going into reconstruction of some really good roads on Highway No. 4, Highway No. 8; the reconstruction work. We seem to be getting some pavement on some highways. Again, I want to ask the Minister, Mr. Chair, in terms of looking at our winter roads in the Sahtu.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, again I have to just restate that these projects were already approved projects through the business plan, through the capital infrastructure acquisition plan, and the fact for the winter road bridges program that's cost shared and those projects were selected and agreed to with the partners. For further investments, as the Member is requesting for further work, again that would have to be requested and put through the normal business planning process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. We're on page 32. Highways, not previously authorized, \$17.523 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 33, ferries, not previously authorized, \$1.277 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Road licensing and safety, not previously authorized, \$194,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$22.671 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 34, Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, economic development, not previously authorized, \$1.360 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, could I get some details as far as with this RV campground planning and development. Is this the Folk on the Rocks site money and, if so, is that proceeding? Maybe I can get some details first on what is that \$140,000. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Chairman, this is planning money to look at potential sites for an RV campground. Of course, we're still doing some work and we have committed to another public meeting. I'm not sure if that date has been scheduled yet, but it's forthcoming. We're also, at the same point, going to, because of some of the suggestions that have come out of the public consultation, because of some of the concerns that have been raised by Members, we're going to look at some other sites as well. In any event, it's not the amount of money that we would need to construct the site. As Members know, there was a reduction in the small cap budgets, and so what we're prepared to do here is do some planning around potential sites. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Is there an expectation in any way that we will have some type of parking for RVs this summer? Is there anything to be done, explored, that the Minister can talk about, or is it just planning money for maybe next year? Thank you.

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

HON. BRENDAN BELL: No, Mr. Chairman. Without the money in the capital budgets, in the small cap budget, it wouldn't be possible to construct RV sites for this season. We're behind now. What we are proposing to do, though, is to do this planning so that we can move quickly. We feel that this is a need. It's something that we need to address. There were concerns raised to some of the public consultation and we're going to endeavour to find the best possible site in Yellowknife, but we maintain that it is necessary. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll accept that. The visitors centre information at the 60th parallel, I brought to the attention of the Minister that there's been some graffiti and stuff, and this line item has reminded me that that's there. Have they cleaned up that site at the visitors sign that had graffiti on it? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe the Minister can provide that at a later date. But the process here is for some work that has been identified so they can put into new initiatives. So there are some new dollars going into that for the 60th parallel; \$75,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Economic development, not previously authorized. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't resist. I have to get some description on \$226,000 to build a shower building. I'm sure there's more going on here for a quarter million dollars for more than just a shower building.

---Interjection

MR. BRADEN: Oh, I see. Well, there's some wild speculation going on over here, but perhaps the Minister could help out, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a complete scope of what the work was, but the project was redefined to fit the existing budget and, due to the late start, construction was delayed until this spring. But I don't have any further detail as to the size of it. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chair, I don't want to make the assumption that is just a shower building as we see a little bit higher on the page we're also building a shower building in Fort Providence for \$70,000, but the one at

Natanlaili is \$226,000. So that's the level of detail I'm looking for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Can I have order please. I have Mr. Bell, please.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I don't have the detail of the scope of work to compare those two projects in front of me, but if memory serves, that \$70,000 is finishing off that project in Fort Providence. There was more money -- I don't have the detail in front of me -- spent, and I can't tell you things like how many shower stalls would go into the other shower building, but I can certainly endeavour to get that detail and provide it to committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Economic development, not previously authorized, \$1.360 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.360 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$11,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Forest management, not previously authorized, \$662,000. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along I guess a similar line here, we're looking at a budget item for a heliport for the North Slave region at \$537,000. Are we buying the helicopter too, Mr. Chairman? Perhaps my understanding of what's required for a heliport is a little short sighted on this, but a half a million dollars? From what I understand, a heliport is basically a landing pad. Maybe the Minister could assist me there, too, in the scope of this project.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this project has been revised, as well. The total project dollars is \$571,000. Some money has been spent on it. The goal is to have this heliport constructed and completed by the end of August 2007. For the rest of the detail, we'll have to provide that as well.

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

MR. BRADEN: Where in the North Slave region is this going, Mr. Chairman?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't have that detail with me and we can provide that to Members as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Braden. Thank you. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$662,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Wildlife, not previously authorized, \$1.561 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$2.234 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Now I'd like to ask the committee to return to the bill. I'd like to stand down the clause by clause on the preamble and turn to page 3 of the schedule. Schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$58.169 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Part 2, vote 2, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$78.898 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total supplementary appropriation, \$137.067 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Committee, I would like to ask you to turn to Bill 8. We will stand down the preamble and go to clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): The preamble. Sorry, I missed my second page. Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Now turn to the preamble.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Does committee agree that Bill 8 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Minister and witnesses. At this time, I'd like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses out. I will now rise to report progress. Thanks a lot.

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: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2007-2008, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted, and that Bill 8 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Do we have a seconder for the motion? Honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? Those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schuerte): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Wednesday, May 16, 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
 - Motion 8, Commitment to the Deh Cho Bridge
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 15, Liquor Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 4, Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation Act
 - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act
 - Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2007-2008
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 19:44.

