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Town of Hay River

Proceedings of the Public Meeting to discuss the Loss of Constable Christopher Worden

7:00pm October 22, 2007

Hay River Community Hall



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Good evening everybody my name is John Pollard. Thank you very much for coming out this evening. I just want to point out that the Fire Department are not here as security, they are here for safety. We anticipated that we might get more people in the room than the room is legal for and so the Fire Department are on the doors in case and god forbid there is an accident. So in case we have to leave the building efficiently please take notice of the Fire Department members. The meeting tonight is a public meeting and it is to discuss what happened on October 6th the loss of Constable Christopher Worden, and I am sure you are all aware of what happened. So I will first ask if you could shut off your cell phones or put them to silent that would be greatly appreciated. We are going to have this public meeting until 9:00 p.m. and I will explain what will happen at 9:00 p.m. first if you don't mind. There are candles and flowers at both sides of the room so if we could leave the building through these two doors, pick up a candle or a flower and we are going to walk to the Hay River Detachment. When we get there and assemble Keith Marshall will sing Amazing Grace and of course we would like you all to join in as well. Chief Alec Sunrise will recite the Lord's Prayer, then we will observe a minute of silence and then Keith will lead us again in singing O Canada and then we will lay the flowers at the base of the flagstaff, and there is a register over there at the detachment and if you care to sign it, we would appreciate that, and that will happen at precisely 9:00 p.m.

The meeting tonight is being recorded. We will not have answers for you tonight, but all of the questions asked will be forwarded to appropriate government to the appropriate department and we will ask them for written responses. So Mrs. Groenewegen is going to see that the Government of the Northwest Territories is going to transcribe this meeting and that is where it is important that if your going to speak that you come to the microphone however afraid of them microphones that you are, ask your question, state your concern in a brief fashion and as I said it is being recorded. Once those answers have been obtained we will put it together in a written document and circulate it in the community and post it on our web page and then we will come back together as a community to discuss how the concerns were dealt with, how the questions were answered. So tonight is just the beginning and tonight is for the public it is not for a politician to sit here and lecture you or tell what I want to do or for Council to tell you what it wants to do. Council have agreed unanimously that tonight is the publics chance to speak. We want to know what you think what you feel and which direction you think this community should be going in. Having said that the press are in attendance tonight as you can see, so at twenty five minutes past the hour and five minutes to the hour I will take five minutes to allow the press to ask any questions that they have. So without further adieu, the microphone is open, and those of you who wish to make a statement or ask a question, I please ask that you do so now, if you could state your name and then ask your question please.

My name is Leslie Bouchard, I know a couple years ago I read about a town named Spiritwood, Alberta that had drug problems in that town as well and they

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pulled together as a community to get rid of these people and I was wondering if yourself or any of the Town Councilmen have thought of phoning Spirit River Mayor and asking what they exactly did.

That was suggested to us very early on and we have decided not to go out and do anything until we had consulted with the community and so we know that Spirit River did some things and we are interested in that, but I think that what we need to do right now is look for a made in Hay River solution to our problem if we do have a problem, but we are perfectly prepared to go and discuss these items with Spirit River.

Ok, thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you, my name is Glen Davies, first of all I'd like to sincerely thank our Mayor John Pollard for convening a venue like this. This is an important step one of many steps toward healing as a community because we are in this together are we not. Like I said my name is Glen, I am not a drug and alcohol expert don't profess to be one. We have got some absolutely fabulous people in our community that do have the expertise. But tonight I represent just an incredible bunch of teens, who call themselves Wired Youth Ministries Incorporated, and I've got about 30 of them in our group right now and some of them are not here tonight because this is absolutely the worst night of the week for them. Some of them have 2 or 3 different things they are involved in this time of the week and some of them are going to be cutting out on us a bit early today because they have got some studying they need to do for some tests tomorrow and later in the week, but I'll tell you in almost 20 years of being involved in youth ministry I can say that I have never been more proud and feel it more of a privilege to have the type of people we have in our youth group, they are awesome, they are absolutely amazing, and it is my privilege today to represent them as their youth pastor they are just absolutely incredible bunch of young people. But, we have been thinking about our community this is our town, this is where we live, this is where our friends our family this is where we got to school this is where their baby sitting for some of you guys this is where their friends are the people that we really care about, and I am also involved in the community justice and I tell you it absolutely breaks my heart when I see what is happening in our community. I don't profess to have all the answers but basically the way I see it folks we got two options on the table here. We can either admit we got a problem and passively sit by and do nothing about it or we can take some action. The Wired youth and myself are ready to take some action. We want to spear head something to make a difference make a lasting impact, and we are asking you for your support to help us do that. We have initiated something called "YAAD" it stands for Youth Action Against Drugs and we emphasize the word action because there is a difference between recognizing that there is a problem

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and actually stepping up to the plate and doing something about it. We have already added a YAAD page to our website in honour of Constable Chris Worden and there has already been quite a lot of hits already on it. We are prepared to work closely and network resources of our ministry, law enforcement, social services and justice and make this happen. And in the short time that we have put this out there I'll tell you there has been an absolutely overwhelming response of support from all of those agencies, they are totally on board. Cause you know what, the reason we are going at it with this angle is because our teams are the front line people, they really are, and we have an emerging generation that have a battle on their hands. Folks we need to let them win this, this has got to be won at all costs, cause the fact of the matter is, it is easier to build a child than repair an adult. We have got a lot of adults that are out there hurting. I had one young guy look at me right in the face the other day and he said "I'm a piece of garbage". I said no you are not. He said yes I am. That is because that is what he has been told, he is like almost an adult. Everyone of our teens are precious, everyone of them have huge value and worth. Everyone of them are a vital and integral part of our community right here right now. They are not just the future Mayors and Councillors and law makers. We need them right here right now and we cannot pour enough effort, energy or resources into them. We cannot love them enough, we cannot support them enough because they are amazing and we haven't even begun to tap the potential of our youth. I am with 30 of them every Thursday and I can tell it is absolutely awesome. We need to train and equip our young people with the tools to win this fight. Drug use affects everyone, communities, families and individuals, and anyone that thinks the drug problem is just targeting the Diamond Jenness age young people has their head in the sand because it is a sad fact that all over our country there is PA and Camsell age kids being encouraged to try out the party drugs and what they don't know is that the so called harmless party drugs like marijuana, ecstasy and especially the inhalants can actually kill them on the first try. Folks we have buried enough of our young people haven't we. We have. The goal of YAAD is a faith based youth drug initiative, teens reaching teens in their community. This can't simply be a short term campaign based on the aftermath of what we have all gone through. This has to be a long term sustained initiative. Our message and our mandate is clear enough is enough. We are ready to take back our town. Currently we are working on our logos our goals our objectives and our, a lot of other logistics that need to be in place. We are not completely there yet, we are working towards it because we are just 30 people who want to make a difference. The way I see it, 30 people can make a difference, but 3,500 can move a mountain. We are just asking for your help. One of the first things we want to do is have an all out T-shirt campaign. We got about a third of the money together for that, and our goal is to have everybody in the community involved with this. I'd love to see the Mayor wearing his T-shirt. YAAD Youth Action Against Drugs, and what we would like to do is change every last Friday of the month from just casual work day to YAAD T-shirt Day, and we have put out a letter to the Prime Minister the other day and one of the things I said was "You

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know a few months ago Hay River was basically a little northern community that half the world never even heard of and all of a sudden we have been thrust upon the international stage because of this". So guys we need to seize the moment. I hope you hear that, we need to seize the moment, we need to grab this. A bunch of people in some northern little town called Hay River can set the pace for the rest of the country. We really could and that is our focus, that is our goal, really that is all we are asking tonight. We grass roots with this, but do we have your support.

Thank you, Glen. Mr. Werner

Hi, I guess most of you know me, but anyway I'm Harvey Werner. I have a direct question for the G Division in Yellowknife. I would like to know their policy on who do they declare a danger to society and so forth. I will give you an example. In 1999 I went to Yellowknife. I went into the G Division and there is a bulletin board. Murder wanted, rapist wanted and on the very bottom there is a picture there looked familiar, my picture, and I said to the RCMP behind the counter "Why is my picture there?" Well Mr. Werner it is there for the police and public safety, all I ever done was carry signs or go to Town Hall to Protest them on different issues. Where does it come, where is the line driven here or drawn. Certain places in town are known to be crack houses, certain locations known to be bootleggers, your looking at an exbootlegger here. I was found guilty of doing it. I said a \$5,000.00 fine for one bottle is not too profitable, but the whole thing there the G Division has taken their focus off things that matter. Drugs, alcohol, if I would say to people in this room right now, how many people know of somebody that smokes dope and if I answer the question and nobody raises their hand that means we got no problem here, because it starts with simple situation with marijuana. To get back to my question where, what's the policy in Hay River when it comes to an RCMP knowing going to a crack house on duty between 11:00 p.m. at night and 5:00 a.m. in the morning when most things are happening and goes there by himself. I have heard in the newspaper that it has been our policy, it is up to the individual. When it comes to point when you have nine RCMP in the Town of Hay River. Most of them are on day shift. Statistics have proven and I have done some research that most of the crime, the heavy crime between 11:00 p.m. at night and 5:00 a.m. in the morning. We need new or more RCMP. We haven't got nine RCMP in town we have twelve. Three or four of them are on highway, four of them, there are two staff sergeants, two corporals. Out of the nine leaves five RCMP members to go out and do their job of policing the community. There is something wrong with the statistics when you have four members that are, I would say bosses over five corporals and then when it comes up to the fact, when they have a situation, they have to phone Yellowknife after 4:30 p.m. Now I don't know if you had any dealings with this, it's a nightmare. Cause on this last situation I phoned up Yellowknife, or I phoned in and I said I have a concern that I'd like to report on this incident that took place on the 6th of October. She says could you hold the line a minute. I

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said no I wanna tell you my concerns here and get it back to the right authority, is there a line open so I can phone directly. She said no. I hung up. The system here has to change. To get protection from the police we have got here, there has to be somebody in the RCMP station to answer the phone for Hay River. We are the third biggest, pardon the second biggest community in the Northwest Territories. I know for not 100% certainty what there, they use the RCMP now as a remand center. Which means there has to be a guard on duty. If the guard's on duty for 24 hours a day, there is no reason why that person couldn't be trained to answer the phones and people locally, and the big issue here is when you call Yellowknife that person answering the phone doesn't know the layout of Hay River. You say we want help at Disneyland everybody in town basically knows and the RCMP knows Disneyland. But the person up there has got a clue what the persons talking about, and its important that the policing of this town stays here in Hay River and have some kind of a system put in place that will check with people when a between 11:00 and say 5:00 in the morning. Thank you

Thank you, Mr. Werner. Who's next?

Hi, Bob O'Toole, I have a direct question about policing in the North, making the assumption that most of this garbage is coming up from Edmonton, does our detachment, of G Division, of what ever they are called. Do they have a relation with the city forces down south, like the Edmonton City Police? Cause I know in recent years they have made progress on, they've caught a lot of drugs coming into the community. It was publicized, it was in the Hub. So there have been successes, the police have been successful. Is there any mechanisms or can that be improved upon? So that's it.

Thank you, Bob.

My name is Michael Huard and reading the Hub one of the ones that caught my eye and every business owner, every tax payer is pretty much irate at Housing. Not housing in Hay River where the person works for housing, or what ever, but to the Territorial Government. Like Mr. Werner said probably most of the people who grew up here know who the bad seed is, know who this is. Some houses are known as the crack houses the marijuana house and when one person gets convicted once, twice. Why are we housing them? Because if it's there inevitable right that we live in this socialist country that we are gonna help everybody, and there is nothing to be ashamed when you need help, well if they have the right to live there then we have the right to stop paying for it. So, basically from Res to Yellowknife to Providence to Hay River our MLA's, well the one that we have to speak for us not the guy who sits in the chair. We don't want to pay it. We are tired or it. You know it's like we don't get subsidized as a person who owns a house, we have heating bills but we pay everybody's' heat. We do this. Have the common courtesy to be thankful to the people who are housing you instead of feeding their kids and some adults the shit that you are.

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Thank you. The microphone is vacant. People are racing up there now. It's a race between the timer and the moderator.

Hi, I am Lesli Fisher. Six years ago I was transferred here with my husband. He was a sergeant in the RCMP Department. Twenty five years ago I joined the RCMP. I think as a town I ask that you ask this detachment have we been staffed with our nine members for the last six years. One of my key questions. Nine members ladies and gentlemen, six years ago when we came, Don was asked to reduce complaints against police here. That was our job. Husband and wife team, Jack was just delighted about how involved we were in the community. I watched my husband work a day shift and a night shift because there was not enough staffing. When you look at the guys that are working here, you have a sergeant and a corporal. Then you have seven members underneath. Out of that seven members you are covering this town seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five days a year. Those members do more than forty hours a week. They get chastised if they do overtime. Fact. Fact. There is always somebody on holidays, cause they have to have holidays. There is always someone on course, because they take great pride in their organization. The RCMP in keeping up to date with techniques or the courses that their members need. Then there is court, now it is a unique situation here in the North compared to other provinces with regards to how court is run. We actually have an RCMP member that does traffic court if I am not mistaken. If I am mistaken let me know, Jack. Because I don't want to misrepresent because the other thing in other provinces you don't have a police officer sitting over there being paid to run traffic court. Other provinces you pay your damn ticket and if not a warrant is issued, you don't have to have someone tell you that unless you are going to court that day. The Constable or Corporal or who ever it is gets subpoenaed there. They have a budget at this detachment. I can tell you when Don was here he was over his budget every year consistently. He would tell Jack Krueger who was his supervisor at that time that he was consistently going to be over his budget ahead of time, but that is what these guys are operating under. They are under pressure to keep it under budget. When Don was replaced by Sergeant Downing I would suggest that maybe this detachment didn't have a Sergeant in place for those three years. We now have Sergeant Rose who is doing clean-up. We had a twenty years old, or a twenty year steno working in this detachment and three years ago has left, but nobody ever asked why. What was going on internally there? These are questions that need to be asked. These are questions the need to be answered. Ask them if they have resolved the grievances that have occurred three years ago. One of the members here said that we need help. They keep sending us babies, Lesli, and I said what do you mean. He says they are coming right out of, you know right out of training. We are a very busy detachment. Detachments are run by their file load and that means every time a call comes in a file is opened up. And no how trivial it may seem it has to be acted upon, that's what they are asked to

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do. A constable, if I do remember correctly and its one of the things that they been struggling with the RCMP is not to unionize. Is that they don't have to, they can refuse a call, they don't have to go on call. They do it because they love it, it's not the love of money that these policemen work under. A first year constable I think is in the \$30,000.00 range now. They go through depot, they are not paid. They are giver their food and their room and then they hope that they pass the course and they get detachment, or moved out. Twenty-five years ago when I went in, I was employed and I was paid while I was there. You know \$600.00 a month or what ever it is. A sergeant today makes \$72,000.00, so these people that are working for us in the community do it for the love of the job, the love of people and their spirit is actually affected I believe and I can speak that quite clearly with my husband at that time. What do they need, they need our help. Drug dealers work on fear and they hope that fear can control us, by not speaking out. They are the most paranoid group of people that you will ever meet. They are always looking over their shoulder. They are always questioning that new person that comes in, whether that's an under cover operator or what ever it is that the RCMP or police departments use. They have a great deal of knowledge, the RCMP and other, when some asked about is there other that they work with. Yes, that answer is yes. They are always talking to each other they always gathering information, but what they need is for you to step up, and it is very, fear controls all of us. In every aspect of our life, sometimes and you have to go and understand that we come from this universe that loves speed, and there is no doubt and no fear, and your gut will let you know if something is not right. When people say this is my sons, I have two grown boys and of course one of them said "You know Mom, you know everyone thinks that marijuana is, you know not, is more social right, it's ok", but he says the people that are using it in town don't realize that the person that's bringing these drugs into town is not just bringing marijuana. He is bringing the crack. He's bringing the coke. He's bringing everything else in there because there is a market for it. So to say that marijuana is socially acceptable and today it has gotten stronger from the sixties. They have been able to make it stronger. It's on your playgrounds ladies and gentlemen. It's in pockets; Don has taken it from an eight year old. What grade is that? Grade three. In her pocket, because her parent was a provider in our community with regard to drugs. They need our help. They need our help to get the message out with, when they are saying traffic, they have to gather the information in order to make an effect. It's, it's not having a vendetta, it's also like for me, for the members that are here. My heart goes out to them, but also what I'd like to see is that they get to move on with their lives and I think that they need to be transferred. In my opinion just because as you are, as I can speak and I can only speak from my experience because, as life deals you a blow, and every time I see my ex because my husband says the RCMP caused our marriage to in some ways cause they let him down cause he challenged them and god forbid if you challenge them and that is why I think some of the members are afraid to say what they want to say because they don't want to rock the boat. That when I walk and I run into him it is very difficult and it's very difficult for me and I pray for

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him all the time and the first thing I did on October 6th when I heard I prayed for Chris and his family, and I prayed for our community that we would join together and rise up and bond and not have any fear and know that these individuals are trying to fit in too. Cause that is what we want to do, everyone wants to belong, you want to belong. There is nothing worse then not belonging. So if you make it difficult for them, to belong, they either shape up or they ship out. When, you know facts are facts. When I read one of the articles in the paper this week, when it said people were afraid of a vendetta and so forth. I thought if it walks like a duck and talks like a duck then it is a duck. So if you have been convicted of drugs and you continue to do it you're still a drug dealer. So face the facts, either shape up or ship out. The reason why I also think the members need to move on, it's just that it makes it easier to deal you know, because you have to practice forgiveness and you have to practice. I don't want to see a defence attorney use that if they decide, you know to get, I, I what I think is going to happen is the community is going to start talking, is going to join together and we are going to see some results, and I don't want to see a defence attorney use this as well the police were out to get me. As, you know, and I think that's why I, I, love these members they're great guys, they wear, they feel so much about our community when they do come in. But, I'd also like to see less traffic enforcement and more of the real issues in our community. But, I really do, ask them to look at their budget, to look at how many members have been really staffed here, and if we have had a full compliment in the last six years. Thank you.

Mr. McNeill, and then I'll, we're running a little late on the press, but go ahead Duncan.

Thank you my name is Duncan McNeill, I am a former Mayor of Hay River, I was a Justice of the Peace for fifteen years and a Corner for fifteen years. I know there is more than the top side of Hay River, there's an under side. I think we as a community have to make a decision what we want to be, because we can end up either way. We can end up with this being a drug capital, a crime capital. We can end up with this being a crime free, or nearly crime free community. In thirty some years of living in Hay River, I think there has only been two things that have truly assaulted me. A number of years ago we had a sexual assault on a young girl going to school, and this month we had a police officer who was murdered. Some say he was executed. People in authority know what's going on. Teachers know what's going on in the school. But, I don't hear them speaking out. Maybe they are afraid to. Police officers find that is a horrible burden to have to go after the street level guys, when these guys walk half the time, or if they don't walk they get what, a fine. Do you know how much profit there is in Cocaine these days. Police officers tell me that where they used to be able to catch guys at the lower level and turn them. They can't anymore because the profits are so great that if you dare speak against your suppliers, you are liable to end up tied to a tree and burned to death. They don't dare, so what are

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we going to do about it. We are the ones that can have the backbone to stand up and say enough of this crap in our community. We are the ones who can says I know somebody is dealing drugs and we're gonna hound they until they bloody well change or leave our community. I'm not prepared to see Hay River go down the tubes, and I trust the rest of you here tonight aren't either. Thank you

Ok, members of the press you have five minutes if you'd like to ask questions. Nobody's jumping up so we will move on to the next person who wants to talk to the community.

Hi, my name is Ann Lobb. I worked for the RCMP at this Hay River Detachment for at least five years. When I worked there we were a sixteen man detachment and our population was a lot smaller that it is now. Our problems with alcoholism and drugs have gotten a lot worse and yet we are a nine man detachment. Why? My other question is we have all heard over the radio that someone was listening to a scanner that night, and that RCMP officer was out there for forty five minutes before back up arrived. The dispatcher from Yellowknife kept calling him and calling him and he didn't answer. Why was he left out there for so long. When I worked with the RCMP never would I leave a man out there for longer than ten, fifteen minutes at the longest. At five o'clock in the morning he would never have been out there alone. I'd just like to know why the RCMP didn't respond earlier. As back up. Thank you.

Thank you, Ann. Who would like to take the microphone next?

Gordon Norberg. I guess for us what I'd like to know, what can we do. What do we have to look for. What do the RCMP and the lawyers need. Will our help make a difference? We can know who these people are exactly what do they need for us so they can make a difference. You can say what you want, you can but exactly what kind of evidence, what is it that ordinary citizens can do. What does the law allow us to do right now.

My name is Brad Arsenault. I moved to Hay River five months ago. That does really give me a place here to speak, but why I came here I believe does. Two years ago I came through, I met with Kevin Wallington, leader of the Youth Center at the time, and I asked him. I said "Kevin, what can we do to get these young people here on the right track." We began to discuss some different things, went back to Calgary, and for two years my heart began to break for the condition of the young people in your community and the destiny of it. So five months ago the burden got so strong that I moved up here, partnered up with Kevin and we began to start up a youth ministry here, a youth outreach, a youth church. That we believe will affect the future of the young people in this community. So what I'm asking, is I'm asking for the support of this community, I'm asking for the support of the government, to help us to fulfill the dream of

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seeing the young people live with purpose and a life and fullness of all that god has for them. Thank you.

Hi there, my name is Randy Witten and I moved here about two years ago. Does Hay River not have a Crime Stoppers Program here? In two years I haven't seen anything of it. I'll donate a hundred bucks. If this can get some bastard busted take my hundred bucks.

Thank you, Randy. Is there some else who would like to take the microphone?

I'm Diane McNeely, I read in the media and I've hearsay that there is witnesses to this shooting. What I am wondering is why Yellowknife wasn't called when this was witnessed and letting that dispatcher know that kept calling this officer that the guy was laying there on the ground shot. Are they going to be held accountable for not calling? That's all.

Thank you.

My name is Joanne Barnaby, and I'd like to know that our MLA's are going to do something to reduce all of the cutbacks that have been made to our Health and Social Service programs throughout the North so that all of the local organizations here that are struggling with these issues. Can actually have some support to do their good work. I'd also like to express my concern that I've witnessed a lot more aggression on the part of the RCMP since this shooting and I don't mean that they have been out more than usual. They certainly have and I applaud that. What I am concerned about, I moved from my paradise home in DeLancey Estates to right across from Disneyland in that apartment building and I was there when that incident took place, and since then I've seen four different occasions where the police have strong armed kids. With such aggression it terrified me. I think we are sending the wrong message to our kids when we do that. I understand the, what they must be feeling and precaution they need to take, but we can't start acting like them. Thank you.

Thank you, Joanne. Who wants to speak next?

My name is Louise Schumann and I have an eight year old and a ten year old and have been living here for a long time. Years ago when I was growing up in Fort Smith they had curfew and it was enforced. I think it was 11:00 p.m., I can't remember. Nowadays there are kids after 11:00 p.m. all over the place with no parents watching them, or where are the parents, and so perhaps we can look into some kind of a curfew as a community so that these kids are off the street. We that a lot of crime happen between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. or and perhaps somehow we can enforce some kind of a curfew and you know fine the parents if the kids are found out after a certain time because you can't seem to anything to

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the kids under the Young Offenders. So that is a suggestion that maybe we can look into.

Thank you. Just on that issue, that is one area that is the jurisdiction of the municipality. The Councillors are here tonight. Is a curfew a good idea or bad idea? Thank you, I think it is a good idea.

Your worship the Mayor, my name is Alec Goodzeck and I have two concerns in respect of the policing. Number one is, it is beyond me why we have tolerated for so long that it is if we have to phone the RCMP after 4:30 p.m. on any matter we have to get somebody from Yellowknife that fumbles for half an hour to find who we are and where we are calling from, number one. Number two, the other thing that really concerns me, I hear so much said about the way the police exercise their duties and my concern is with the legal and criminal codes written as they are today, is there not so way somebody in this country can come to the realization and the reality of the issue that maybe, maybe we need to give more authority to the police system as how they go about things, be it a bit rude from time to time, but we might be able to resolve something. This idea of handling everybody with kit gloves just doesn't work. There comes a time when you have to be firm. With that much said I just can't understand why they would, headquarters in Yellowknife cut us down in numbers and cut us down everyway going, and I think it the issue that has to be taken up by our MLA's as well as other people, our MP as well. Why Yellowknife gets everything and everyone else gets cut so bad to our detriment position.

Amen to that.

Your Worship if I read the paper right I understand that you're going to Ottawa and hope to meet with the Prime Minister, and if that being the case can you meet with some Justice Minister shake somebody up a little so we can get some changes to the number of RCMP we get.

You gotta love the color of that sweater Keith. I tell ya.

Glad you like it. It's salmon.

Just a few points I'd like to make. Last summer on Katlodechee First Nation we instituted a curfew. The reason we instituted a curfew was because we had kids from five years old up about two, three, four o'clock in the morning. Nobody knows where their parents were so the Council and I met and we drew up a curfew by-law. We then instituted that by-law and had security at night. After 10:00 p.m. any child under sixteen years old and under were sent home, or driven home. Driven home to their parents. There were some nights when they were chasing kids through the woods, but they made sure those kids got home. After a few months and up until now that seems to be working a lot better. I

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mean we still have issues, however it is working so a curfew we felt was a necessary thing and did not feel at all that it infringed on anybody's rights, because for the safety of those kids. That was the prime concern the safety of the kids. So I would suggest that if Hay River is considering it they should go ahead and institute a curfew. My second point is the issue of our youth and really they are the victims in this because those, it's the innocent victims that have, who have no way to protect themselves against drug dealer or who ever come in and people who give them alcohol. Whether it is people going to the liquor store and buying liquor for kids under age. They are the victims and sometimes they don't know the difference between right and wrong. So I think that we need to focus on that. And my third point is that I heard a lot about what are the police gonna do. What are doing as parents, you know we need to get in our kids faces, we seriously do. You know we are responsible for those kids and when my kids were growing up. My kids are all older now and I think my wife and I did a pretty good job because when I knocked on the bedroom door and my daughter said to me "You can't come in here this is my private room". Well honey let me tell you something. I pay the mortgage, I feed you, I cloth you. If I want to lift up your mattress, I gonna lift up your mattress. The other thing, and I don't want to make it sound like we have to be intrusive, but we need to talk to our children, we need to communicate with our children. My rule was one meal a day we all sat down at the table and we talked and they could talk about anything at all. And I think we have to start relating to our kids we have to get in their faces, we have to know where they are going we have to know what they are doing. Hey, I'm going out tonight. Where are you going to? John's place. Hey, Bob this is Keith, my son going to your sons place tonight. Yeah he is. Ok that's fine. He's gotta be home at 11:00 p.m. Yeah that's good. It may sound like we are being, you know we're. You know kids talk about rights. I say yeah they have rights, you have the right to go to school, they have the right to well, you have the right to come home when you are told to. I'll feed you, I'll cloth you I'll do everything for you but that is as far as your rights go until you're and adult. I think that we really have to communicate with our kids, talk to them find out what's going on in their lives and if children, because it is not only. We say well it's Mary's kids, cause Mary is never home, but drug dealer don't differentiate between Mary's kids or Keith's kids. If they see a way to make a dollar they are going to go after that child and make a dollar and with kids having some many part time jobs today they have a lot of disposable income. You know it is not like giving 25 cents a week when I was growing up. They are working for \$9.00 or \$10.00 an hour and so we really need to know what our kids are doing. We can't leave it all to the teacher, we can't leave it all to the police. We as parents, we brought them into this world and we need to make sure that they grow up and they be productive citizens. I think as we, I see this whole approach as a collective approach. It is not only one issue going after drug dealer and saying this is how we are going to solve the problem. No we have to educate our kids to what's good and what's bad for them and what's right and what's wrong for them and help them make solid choices and give them options. There are too many

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kids walking the street. We have to whether it is recreation. I love the idea of youth ministry, I think it is a great idea for kids because there is nothing wrong with having god in your life. I think that really need to start taking stock in our kids and getting involved. Thank you.

Thank you, Keith.

Hi, I'm Tom Moore. I'd just like to say whatever I'm hearing the last few years. We all know the problem is getting worse. I think that one thing a lot of people are making a mistake. These crack dealers are not all that. They're somebody we should be scared of. To tell the honest truth that's just the opposite like, they're all jumped out of it. What makes them look smart is the court system, just like you say, when they get thrown back out onto the street. But, as far as fearing them. Like I realize this one officer was shot, nobody knows the real circumstances behind that, and I speak with experience when I say that. I have this problem as well, I lost a friend to it and yeah I went around through every one of their houses. I never had anything stolen from me, never. They refuse to hang out with, like they are scared people that are all jumped out of it and there is no reason to be scared of them. Just kick them out of the way, cause that's all they are, just lumps. That's all I got to say. Thanks.

Thank you, Tom.

Hi my name is Lois Steele and my husband and I are pastors at the Pentecostal Church and we have been here about two years now, but all together in the North I think it is about like our 7th or 8th year in the North. But, it is a real eye opener when your parking lot become part of a crime scene. You can't just pretend and I am also a proud foster parent and we are talking about how we can make a difference. How about opening your home. We are talking about, yeah we've got to get into our kids faces, these are all our kids. It says it takes a community to raise a child and if we a really going to make a difference it is not going to just have an affect on the drug dealer we have today. It's the drug dealers that are coming up from the ranks. Like I don't know does that disturb you a little bit to hear that an eight year old has marijuana taken off of her. That's a little disturbing to me and I'm sure it not an isolated case, that's one example. So we know that these kids are being targeted, we absolutely know what the end result is going to be unless there is some intervention. And so these kids are going to need to have another alternative, they're going to have to know that there is another path that they can take. So I think it is getting past the point where we just say oh well it's someone else's problem. Nay, it's our problem. It is absolutely it's our problem. So you know, I know they don't have enough foster homes in this community. Sad but true fact. Maybe you could consider it, I tell you it has been one of the greatest blessings in my life. And my kids are almost grown up. Yeah, so just be challenged in that, we can't just say oh look at those kids. What are we going to do about it? Let's love them. Lets out our

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arms around them, lets speak into their lives something positive and then we are going to see something change. Thanks.

Chief how are you.

Alright, somebody knows me. When I look around. Talking about nine RCMP. We got more forces right now right here. Many years ago, I'm going to sound like an old man, but it's ok. When somebody comes into our community. Strange vehicle, we knew all about it. Some of us we are going to have to, like myself right now, even though as a chief we don't have a perfect reserve. We have our problems with alcohol and drugs also. But I am sure that many of us here, we want to join forces, together to keep an eye on our communities. We see a strange vehicle, Alberta licence or BC licence. It is not to say they are problems, but think we could keep an eye. We should know the ones that are not tourists. Pretty sure we're smart enough to figure that out. Get a computer out and do your own work. Sometimes I hear a noise. I'll get out of bed ago check it out. Average sleep I get probably three or four hours a day, whether it here in Hay River or in Yellowknife, don't matter where. Sometimes it's because I am disturbed by somebody else. There are times I get blamed for making noise or somebody making too much noise. I was in a motel in Edmonton and these young guys were making too much noise at 2:00 o'clock in the morning so I opened my door and told them. Come on you guys have a little respect so somebody can have a little sleep around here. So they go and phone the front desk. Later on I phoned the front desk and they said yeah there is a little Indian over there making a lot of noise. So what do you do? I want to tell you we can do it. We can, I heard today we can combine together. How much more power it is if we just bind together. You will see tremendous power to the point that everyone of us take that responsibility to look out for each other. Let us not allow the river between us to separate us. Allow ourselves to able to know that we can do it together, both sides of the river. Give a message no only to us here, but to other communities, that we will be able to inspire others to do likewise. In cities or where ever it might be. We are the Hub of the North, we can give a message also to those around us in other places. Thank you very much.

For the record that was Chief Alec Sunrise.

Good evening. First off I'd like to say my name is Amos Cardinal. I'm one of the council members of the Katlo deeche First Nation, the reserve in Hay River. I just wanted to speak a bit about in regards to, you know I heard a lot of talk about what are the RCMP doing and stuff and a lot of talk about what the community is doing. It is unfortunate that these things have to happen for this community to wake and see the real problems that are going on in our community. Not just within our community, all over the North. You know you hear a lot of talk about as to how we are under staffed at the RCMP. You know I look at the North here. I grew up here in Hay River. As a resident on this side as well as the other side.

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So I've lived in both worlds, so I think it's safe to say I am talking by experience by living here in Hay River itself as well as the Reserve. I grew up in the early eighties, when we were growing up here there were a lot of cops here in Hay River. You know anytime after 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. you'd be walking around the police would pull you over, ask your names, who you are, where you going. That was just so they knew who was out on the streets. I don't see that happening as much anymore with the cops. It seems they are more focusing on other issues or what ever the issues they are dealing with probably more serious than that. This town has seen a lot of changes in regards in crime, drug, rape. You it's getting really bad from what I have seen. I have always never lived on the prominent side of the fence so as to speak. I guess you would say that I had my run ins with the law. You know I look around this room here today and there are a lot of people in this room here that either partied with or fought with or went through difficult times as to where we've seen ourselves. Now some people today in this room here probably have, still have the conception as to who I was at one time. But one day I decided, I woke up and looking around after a party and beer bottles all over the place and said to myself, self you need to make some changes and that was quite a while ago and I am kind of glad I did. You know there wasn't much resources back here in Hay River in terms of getting help to make a change your life, in terms of a healthier lifestyle. You don't see that as much, there are there now but you know it is just not enough out there in terms of resources, communication with young people as to where we need to go. What are our efforts can we do to help the young people today in terms of seeing them to be successful and getting away from what is going on in terms of drugs, alcohol, the whole thing. I lived a whole life myself, you know it is unfortunate back then I had to make struggles to stand up where I am today. What's going on in this community in terms of how we see things happening, drugs and alcohol are pretty bad. We have more resources in this community and throughout the North, what's really breaks my heart and it's sad to see the, the NWT is being recognized at an international level in terms of resources that are coming out of here. My question is there is billions of dollars in terms like I work in the mining industry, I've worked in the oil and gas industry. The resources that are coming out of here, they're talking about a billion dollar industry pipe line coming through here now. Should that go there are millions of dollars being pumped out of the NWT or the North in itself in terms of resources. Where is some of this money going, can't it be funneled back into the systems that we see problems in terms of social services, RCMP, law enforcement. The whole nine yards. Everything is collapsing but yet billions of dollars are being pumped out of here. When I stepped into my position running for Council on the reserve I cleaned up my life to a healthier lifestyle and looked at that community in terms of where it is going to be. I kind of said to our Chief and Council in the past as well I can admit our generation is messed up right now, but we have room to correct the ones that are coming in and with that we need support not only from our community but Hay River on Both sides. It's a tough and unforgiving job sometimes but as someone mentioned the jobs they do the

RCMP or whatever, they do it for the love of the job. I'm trying to step into the position to do it for the love of my people from what I have seen in terms of suffering for aboriginal people, not just aboriginal people, everybody in the North. We see third world conditions in the NWT with all this money being made here and yet we still stand here and asking as if we are waiting for a dollar from the Federal Government to say how much more can I get. What is wrong with that? It seems like the government seem to focus on industries or throughout other territories or provinces throughout the whole NWT and Canada. It seems they're focusing more of the oil sand because of the billions of dollars that are happening there, its more money for them to take it's not a big issue anymore in the NWT, but we are still a contender in terms of resources that are coming out of here. I just want to say that we need to start bringing more of that back into our system so we can start offering more resources to our young people and stuff, and somebody mentioned getting into the face or their kids. I grew up in an age where if I did something wrong I got a licken, I mean a good licken. Not a willow or a broom stick. You don't see that anymore. I talked to a friend of mine who had a kid and he turned sixteen years old and he said you can't tell me what to do anymore. Why not? Cause I'm sixteen I get to do what I want to do. His dad went down to his room packed up all his bags and stuff, cloths and everything in a garbage and threw it on the door step called social services and said here take this guy cause he don't listen to me no more, or he thinks he has the right not to listen. I guess somebody mentioned that we got to start getting to our kids in terms of making them feel what is going on. Make them to contribute to this community to be a better safer place. There are a lot of good kids out there but just don't have the resources and place to go to. We have a youth center over here, we are trying to do one across the river too, as well, but the money is just not there. It always seems to be a funding problem, funding problem. If everybody in this town including the businesses that made the money of the backs of these hard working people within this community that built there empire would put a dollar in we would be able to fund those types of organizations everyday. Not just here but on the reserve. We can all come together. The Chief mentioned don't let the river come between us. I have seen that growing up, I've seen everything in terms of how that separated us as aboriginal people. When you said the reserve when I was growing up, that was a dirty word and a dirty place to be even looking at in terms of native people. Now we have organization asking us to contribute to businesses and other things, but it's nice to see that we are starting to come together as one community as opposed to two people. Whether we are aboriginal people or not we can still make this community a better place and take it back and make everybody feel a part of this community in terms of a safer place to live. I don't mean to be taking up too much time but, you know when I got into the reserve over there, somebody told me he says you know you can't come in here and fix the whole world. I said no I can't but, tell you what I can fix the world that sits on that side of the river, I can start there in hopes that this community can see things too as well, as far as what we're trying to establish, so we obviously have a lot of work to do. I think this

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whole community is gotta get involved in terms of helping out the RCMP, all the resources we have in this community, start coming together and say hey we can do this. These other people, these drug dealers and other places, crack homes, somebody said yes we all know them. We know who they are, in the early eighties somebody said we got to start breaking the silence. I think we need to bring back a bit of the eighties again. We see it a lot in the clothing we might as well see it in the attitude. Thank you.

Thank you, Councillor. Could you state your name please?

Hi, my name is Jane Groenewegen. I am one of your MLA's and I just wanted to let you know I have a lot of opportunity to stand up to a mic and talk and what I am really interested in here tonight is hearing what you're saying and I must say that I am encouraged by it. I am sorry the resources are not what they should be for the RCMP in town, but and this tragedy has occurred. We have together the MLA's I could show you pages and paged of correspondence to our government saying we do not have enough resources in this town, but now through this unfortunate tragedy we have a message to deliver with a lot of energy and a lot of a, a lot behind that, and that's your voices and that is the voice we will take. I want to thanks the town for convening this meeting tonight and I want to thank everyone for being here and we have heard so many good things from people tonight and like I said I am encouraged about what is going to happen and what can happen when people get together. It isn't all just about like people said about the RCMP, it isn't just about the government. The gentleman who spoke before me, yes we do need more resources for everything, but we have a one point two billion dollars budget in this territory for forty three thousand people and seventy cents out of every dollar goes to health and social service, education and housing. So we have poured money, but we can't, money alone is not going to fix and solve our problems. We need to get involved and I've been there, I appreciate what Lois said about fostering. Rick and I used to take care of teenagers in this town too and as many of your remember. There is an opportunity all of us to get involved and just as parents can I tell you one more thing. I grew up in the seventies, I was in high school when drugs and LSD were all the rage and I can tell you, you know what my parents told me, they said we love you and we think you are, they instilled self esteem, they said you are too good to do that to yourself, we love you and we want you to love our self and are a MLA I want to tell you, I want our young people in this community to love themselves. I want them to think highly of themselves I do not want to see them hurt themselves and thank you again. I will be taking this message forward in the days ahead. Thank you.

Hi John. Hi Michelle.

My name is Michelle Stephens and I too am a foster parent and I have been known to be outspoken which is not necessarily a bad thing and I have been

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quite verbal since October 6th, but it basically comes down to don't talk the talk unless you are prepared to make the walk. It is time that we stand together and quit pointing fingers at people for this and that and unite together and we can take back our community. We can I did it last on email and I did not think my email would travel that far. When had a vigil on Monday, for Chris I was astounded that one email, that's all it was, brought that many people out in unity for a cause and the biggest thing that everybody said to me that day was I didn't know where to find anything out. So this is what I have done, I have a package of envelopes here tonight and this is my letter. The recent incident that took place in our community which resulted in the loss of the RCMP officer has many residents asking, what could have been done to prevent this event from happening or what can we do now to prevent it from happening. Many people are asking about the program called Safer Communities and Neighborhoods' Legislation "SCAN" and what it represents. Because many of you have asked me personally about this legislation because I have been so verbal. I thought I would put a brief description of Scan and let you where you can obtain the detailed information. At present time this SCAN Legislation has been passed and is being enforced in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Yukon. I have enclosed a brief description of Yukon Legislation because it has gone through Legislative Assembly, it's a running act. It's being enforced, they are taking back their communities. So during the 15th Legislative Assembly the Minister of Justice, the Honorable Brendan Bell attempted to get the SCAN Legislation passed for the NWT. However he bill was defeated by members in the house, because there was aches and pains in it. Quit saying no and work on it. Why do we gotta keep reinventing the wheel and start over again. If it's almost right, fix it. Quit wasting my money going back and forth reinventing the wheel. Let's take this forward and run with it. A tremendous amount of work went into the creation of the legislation and a lot of public consultation was conducted by the department and officials. I went to the meeting last year in November of last was when it was held in our community. There were seventeen residents and people there. Seventeen. It is amazing we can come together and talk to people you don't normally talk, when the power goes out for thirty minutes. All of a sudden we can talk to each other, shut the power off, it's amazing. So if we can put that little effort into getting the community together, can you imagine if we actually all stand up and say whether you have been here for five months, five minutes, five years. If this is your home, fight for it. Get out on the streets. Do what I do, when I go close my store where I work a night time. I do a cruise through downtown. You would be mind boggled at how many youth are on the street, but you know what you would be even more mind boggled on how many of them will accept a ride home. So step up. I have attached a brief description of the SCAN Program in the Department of Justice, just, I have enclosed the websites. Where you can actually see the where the legislative come back and say where they didn't agree. I believe this is a good time to start lobbying our MLA's to have a SCAN or a similar program reintroduced into the new 16th Legislative Assembly. Thank you for your time, Michelle Stephens, Hay River resident.

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Thank you, Michelle

Hello, my name is Brenda McAuley and I live across the street from a drug dealer. Every morning I go to work at ten to seven, quarter to seven, every morning I see anywhere from ten to fifteen kids out there. We talk about having more foster homes, yeah we put them in foster homes and then they don't have to take no drug tests or anything and they are right back, right where the drug dealer, right back where their mom or their dad are, so what's the sense of putting them in foster care if they are not going to help the kids at all or the parents, or get the mothers cleaned up. That's my concern. Thank you.

Thank you, Brenda.

Hello, my name is Christopher Gall. My wife and I moved here five months ago and I'm a computer guy so it's easy to find jobs in the cities with all this stuff is going on. I had an opportunity to come up here and work. My boss is here so gotta be careful, it wasn't the job that sealed the deal. As much as I love my job. It was the town. I've live in places like Toronto and Windsor and Detroit and have been involved in programs that try and combat these things and keep kids out of gangs and drugs and been really disheartened with what is a losing battle in a city because you don't have what you have here, and that's a community, and we didn't want to live in a city, didn't want to live in a town. We wanted to live in a community. I know this is a bad time right now but on a positive note this is the best place I have ever lived and thank you for making this our home. I have never seen anything like it. The day we got here and you do the stuff you do, you go around and sign this and give blood for that. You know the utility needed to be hooked up and this thing and people come up to us and said oh you are new. Hi I'm so and so. What ya got, ok here you got to go here next. I mean I'm from cities where you know ever place you it's like being in the elevator, you don't look at anyone, you don't talk to anyone, and it was bizarre and its' wonderful now that we've gotten to understand it, and in fact we said that day, boy I know who that nice old gentleman is but we've seen him all over town. It was Red I found out later, but everywhere we went there he was. Hey how you kids doing what you need next. Now you have made this home for us and damn it I'm not moving again so you've made me feel at home here, so I'm challenging you to get together and stand up and fight for what you have got here and I just hope as an outside perspective to tell you what you do have here is unique and it's worth fighting for. It's worth getting together, and thank you. I mean I have never been anywhere where I can look around the room after five months and know this many people, you know it's amazing. A couple of quick comments on, I hope we don't forget that we are inundated by TV from movies from other parts of the country and Hollywood and the states and that and sometimes we forget that in this part of Canada where the RCMP are going alone. Every one of them are doing a job that maybe five, six, seven different agencies somewhere else. If

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you were in New York or Chicago that one RCMP officer would be ten other people. You know they have got a city cop, a state cop or provincial police, there are drug agencies, they have got their FBI's and everything. The RCMP go it alone, they do all of those jobs and they do it with pride and honour, and god bless you guys and girls. I we need to have our MLA's push for the devolution that was supposed to happen so that we do get the control of our resources, we do get the money and we can say this is we are darn well gonna spend it, and we are gonna have twenty RCMP here and we are gonna treat them the way they deserve and we gonna support them and we are going to build centers for the drug rehabilitation and for the youth to go to and we are not going to spend it on hiring some foreign company to come and take it away. You know I just don't everybody to lose sight of way is here and what I never seen anywhere else and that we just need to talk and have these kinds of meetings. In a city this can't happen because you can't get ten million people in a room, but you can get most of the town in this room and we can talk and we can say, Hey Bob how are you and so and so, and we can talk about these things and we can fix it lets do it.

Thank you, Christopher. Christopher I couldn't help but notice that Duane Morgan was squirming around in his seat when you were talking about giving blood in the community, so Northland must have something to do with that. You have the floor ma'am.

Just a little bit in what Chris has just said, my name is Yvonne Miller. Our family moved here from New Zealand a year ago and I lived near Disneyland. I probably lived a sheltered life in New Zealand, we don't have guns. Our police, I came from a town about a third the size of Hay River. We have two policemen. Now when ever they, one was away on call, got called to a domestic, the other one either was training was on holidays. The nearest policeman to us was almost twenty minutes drive away. He would take along one of their fire brigades, members. Now we could do that because he realized he would not be going into a house with guns or, you we had drug problems we have gang problems over there. When we came over here, we lived near Disneyland. I saw and heard things that I have never seen in my thirty seven years, but I'd like to say the friends that we have made over here, I would not want to leave Hay River. So I'd like to thank the RCMP for going to places where really they don't know what they are showing up for. So you should be very proud of your police force here.

Donna-Lee.

Hi, my name is Donna Lee Junkind, I have lived here for twenty one years and I am raising my family here and I am proud to be from Hay River. One of the things you said John is that the stuff from tonight all the questions are going to go back to the government agencies. I guess the two questions out of that, that I have are one. What's our time line to get some answers back, and, two when we

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do have another meeting can we have some representatives from those government agencies at our next meeting.

Timeline, I think, you know with the governments it's not a fast turn around Donna Lee so.

I realize that, that's why I brought it up and I think that we are in a position right now where we can kind of demand a timeline and I think that is what we need to do.

I think that, you know, as far as some of the details surrounding the Constable's death, I think, you know that they are gonna closed mouth about that as they go the trial process, but.

And I think everyone will respect that.

But, I think that we are going to do is Mrs. Groenewegen has volunteered the Legislative Assembly to transcribe this meeting, and then what Mrs. Groenewegen is going to do is present it in the house, to the Premier and that's when the question is going to get asked of the government, but I rather think that the government is paying some attention. Is the Regional Director here? Bob are you here? I see you waving your hand. So this message is getting up the line fairly quickly and I think from this meeting some of these questions will already start to be answered. I know our two MLA's are here tonight so I am sure they will start on it right away. I would say that, you know, after Christmas is when we would get back together, in the first part of January to talk about this Donna Lee.

Ok, the other thing that I'd like to bring up is that, I think I could probably speak for most people in the room when I say that we would like to send a message to our Judge's and to our JP's that Hay River would like the maximum sentence when it comes to drug related crime in the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, Donna Lee.

My name is Donna O'Brien. In 1995 I lived in Yellowknife and I had a very good job with the Legislative Assembly, but I had become totally disillusioned with the lifestyle in Yellowknife, my husband was a Staff Sergeant in the RCMP, one of his responsibilities was the drug section. I got tired of seeing drugs on the streets of Yellowknife everyday when I walked to work. So I chose to come to Hay River. After twenty some years of the force telling us where to go, we chose Hay River. Hay River was a safe haven and I was proud to call it my home. My husband followed me in 1996, we have been here ever since. I'm not leaving, so what ever anybody wants to do, to band together to do what ever we have to do to get our town back I am part of it. Thank you.

Thank you, Donna. Mr. Speaker.

Good evening everyone. First of all I would like to thank the Town for a, yourself John for putting this meeting on and bringing these people together and giving them an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about what took place. I came to Hay River back in 1968, and I loved the community at that time. I have been here ever since. We raised four kids in this community and I come from a family of thirteen kids and I don't care what generation you grew up in and where you grew up. If you want to get in trouble, you can get in trouble quite easy, and I want to thank, I thank my parents every day for how they looked after us, and were involved in our lived everyday and I was no saint, I can tell you that right now, but when ever I did something the ones that I had answer to were my parents and I tried to follow that through with our kids, and it was tough growing up. It's tough for kids to grow up today. It has always been tough and it's very easy to get astray. I think I've heard an awful lot of good things here tonight, everybody has ideas, it's obvious everybody wants to do something. If I had one suggestion for tonight it would be that we have to identify who the champion is going to be and if that the Town that is fine, that we all come together and bring our ideas to the Town and have somebody formulate what we are going to do as a community and then go ahead and do it as a united front, but I don't want to see twenty different groups or individuals going different directions and end up with nothing. I think if we get some good ideas and a champion behind it, and we all out our thoughts together and decide this is what we are going to do for our community, I will be there with you fighting everyday for the same thing, cause I want nothing better than everybody else in this room to make life better for hay River and our kids that are growing up here.

Ok, I'll ask the press again if there is any questions that they would like to put forward. The Edmonton Journal is shaking their head. Ok who is next?

Hi, my name is Darlene Lamb. I have lived here since I was five, and I am really nervous. I have four daughter, three of them are teenagers, and I just wanted to say, like Constable Worden, I just wanted to say a word about him cause, excuse me if I cry. I had some problems with a couple of my teenagers and I went to social services community for counseling, went to the RCMP and every ones hands were tied because, between sixteen and seventeen, or between seventeen and eighteen there is a loop hole in the system, I found out the hard way and Constable Worden and another officer took the time, there own time to help me and I really appreciate them for that and I just wanted to let everybody know that the RCMP is here to help us and they are not just out to get you for a speeding tickets they are actually putting their lives on the line, and I know a lot of people know that, but they also help parents if they are willing to ask for the help. Thank you.

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Dave Buckerfield, I grew up here and now part of the establishment and I just want to say that this is still a good town. It is filled with good people that are being manipulated by a very small number. I see a room full of volunteers that do everything from sweep the floors from their kids events everything. People are volunteers. We don't need to be tyrannized by some, very small number of bad apples. There is a thousand pairs of eyes in this town, if you see something like Chief Sunrise said, like Amos said, call the cops and if you don't think we have enough cops and they are getting a bunch of phone calls eventually the budget gonna Hay River has all these call to respond to, they will bring more cops because the demand will be there. Its budget, sending a delegation to ask for more, you know that's one little thing, but if we have a constant stream of calls to be answered, there's a demand. It is a good town, if one were to listen to the Globe and Mail you'd be worried. I know people have gotten phone calls from relatives in Newfoundland saying Oh my God, how can you live there it is terrifying and it's not it's still a good place filled with good people.

Ok, we've got about twenty seven minutes left so if you are hanging back cause you want to be last, we are gonna shut this thing down at exactly nine so I'd encourage you to step forward. Yes ma'am.

I'm Valerie Gall, and I am an American who married a Canadian who is very, very proud to I live in Canada, and that I live in this town. I've lived here for five months and one of the things concerning the curfew in my hometown in Minnesota which is a smaller town than this we have a tornado siren or a fire siren when ever there is a fire the siren goes off and everybody hears it in town and at ten o'clock every night from the time I was four years old until I left the house to go to college that siren went off and you knew that if you were not where you were supposed to be you better be with, you know, parental units or you better be with someone who was responsible, because the police would stop you in a vehicle and they would stop you on the street and they would say what are you doing. I don't know if we even have that cause I am new to town, if we even have a tornado siren or anything like that cause I don't think you get tornados up here. I know that here is probably something, but if that's an option so that the kids know, cause I know they lose track of time when they are out with friends and if that's an option then lets consider it.

Thank you.

Good evening, I'm Ron Ruttle. I think the RCMP are, they are hand cuffed. I drove cab here two years ago. I know most of the crack head, crack houses. I picked up this stranger from a crack house took him to a hotel, waited fro him, brought him back. I seen RCMP a few minutes later, told them the same story. The RCMP told me I can't do nothing without proof. Like they are tied up. You know, it pisses me off, you know thank god I don't drink anymore cause I'd be in jail.

Thank you. Councilor how are you tonight?

Good. Thank you. I'm Kevin Wallington, I have been a member of this community for over twelve, thirteen years somewhere in that range and you know, it was, I came here in grade nine and my father was a pastor so that automatically chalked me up as a church boy. Now for anyone who didn't know me up to that point that's all they knew me as, but if you would have gone back to my grade eight teacher who would have had to deal with me four months prior to my arrival here in Hay River. I would have been one of those kids who was not going on trips, was not invited to stick around. I was the one making the trouble and causing grief and all those other kind of things, and all of a sudden four month after I get here one of my teachers sends me on a volleyball trip to Yellowknife and I'm thinking this is a different place. Cause if I was back home there was no way in the world they would have stuck me on the plane to go stay at somebody's house in Yellowknife, but you know they said Kevin's a good kid and we are going to do that. You know as I'm sitting here tonight and thinking of all the people that have invested in me in the last thirteen years and have put up with all the things I made them put up with and have taken the time to believe in me and taken the time to support me when I've made mistakes and when I have been foolish and when I've young and yet they stood next the me and beside me and John Mayer wrote a song called waiting on the world to change and the first verse says. Me and all my friends we're all misunderstood. They say we stand for nothing, there is no way we ever could. Now we see everything that is going wrong with the world and those who lead it. We feel like we don't have a means to rise above and lead it. Our kids are not stupid, the youth of our community are not stupid. They know what's going on, and they know more about what's going on in this community than we do, and me being nine years out of high school are completely out of touch with what's going on in that place now, and they consider me a younger part of this community, but if we are going to ask our kids to step up to the plate and talk to us, then we better be ready to listen. We better stop saying you're too young to do anything, you're young and foolish, you know you need to come along side, you need to do what you are told, you need to just go to this program, go to that program. Let's start listening to what the youth of our community are asking for, and I guarantee they will give us the things that they think that are needed. They will tell you what this community needs they'll tell you what they want. Instead of me, even as a Councilor saying, well I'm young and I'll come up with something for the kids and that will be great. Well, you know what that is a classic attitude, you know to have, that we are making decisions we think are in the best interest when we don't ask the people that have to live with the decisions we have to make. You know there are a lot of organizations in this community that work very, very hard. You know we have the family support center, you know we have the soup kitchen, we have the youth center, we have so many organizations that are not necessarily not for profit but they are doing a lot of great things here, and there is unbelievable support fro the

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community and has been for those organization to exist as long as they have, but I want us to go to the kids in the community. I want us to talk to them. I want us to stop being afraid of them and stop being afraid of what they are going to say to us, and lets start acting on that and work on that out and showing these kids that we can empower them and that when they do speak they are heard. Thank you.

My name is Chris Powell. First and foremost the reason I am here tonight is to join with my community and pay respect to someone who had the misfortune of going to work one morning and losing their life in a very violent way, and it should of never happened and that's why we're here. That's why I'm here, I can't speak for anyone other than myself. I'm hearing a lot of things and I don't have any suggestions to make. I really don't. I'm still processing and I think the community itself has a lot of processing to do and a lot of healing to do. I do think from a lot of what I'm hearing, I'm hearing a lot of knee jerk reaction, saying this is all the kids fault. You know, sure we've got some bad kids, we've got a lot of good kids too. Got a lot of bad adults. If I wanted to get crack in this town I wouldn't go to a school yard, I wouldn't go to a street corner, I'd go to a bar. That's the reality, you know. I had never consciously seen someone on crack until I moved back to Hay River a Year ago and went to a bar, and you know, you know what it is. You see a person on it and it is just so blatant. So, I'll be a dissenting opinion, I don't support a curfew. I think by passing a law like that you are asking the police to do what parents should already be doing, and police have enough to do already. One of the, I was in Yellowknife last week, and was on a course, someone said to me have you seen today's Globe and Mail. I said no. You're from Hay River aren't you. Well there is a really interesting article about Hay River on the front page of the Globe and Mail, and so I went out and I got it, and I was shocked. It listed, you know it was a front page article. Canada's national newspaper about Hay River and I don't usually read the Globe and mail anyway. I don't even know if you can buy it in this town of not, honestly. It listed five or six major organized crime gangs based out of Edmonton that are active in the drug trade in this community and I felt like I had been living in a box. Like I was completely unaware of this and so, I guess my question is somewhat rhetorical and I direct it towards our local media. To the Hub, to News of the North, to CBC. Why do I have to read Canada's national newspaper to find out what goes on in Hay River. I live in a democracy, and democracy functions only when its citizenry is informed, and if the level of information that I am getting is what I have been reading locally, and I don't mean to dump on the media, they're a part of our community too, but I'm not reading a lot of news. Especially why the reason that I am here. In fact most of what I read on the front page of the Globe and Mail is the same stuff I've been hearing on CBC, and reading in the local papers. Not really a lot and I understand, you know I understand the rational why the RCMP isn't releasing a lot of information on this, but if that's the only source of information for the media then that doesn't say a lot to me about the state of investigative journalism in the North. But, I do think and again I don't mean to dump on the media on this because it is not my intent but I think we do need a

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much more active media to keep the citizenry here informed as to what is going on, and so I guess that is my request. Thank you.

Thank you.

Hi, my name is Bernice Blake-Dibblee. I have in Hay River now for six months and I do know quite a few people here even though I don't work outside the home. So I have lots of time on my hands and there is a lot of people in this community the probably have a lot of time on their hands as well and I hear a lot of suggestions in this hall tonight and they are really good suggestions but now I'm challenging the people in this hall and in the community to volunteer their time. Cause it's often times there is all these kind of suggestions but nobody wants to help. When the time comes to put out your time and your effort there is no one there to do it. So I'm challenging everyone in this community to take ownership of this problem and take ownership of the solution.

Thank you, Bernice. We've got time for one more person, maybe two if the first person is quick.

Unknown speaker, did not introduce himself. By a show of hands how many saw the funeral in Ottawa. Constable Mike Carter said if you have a story to tell about Chris, a good story, share it and share it often. There are so many positive comments about the RCMP. I believe it is important to support the RCMP. Give them, give them thanks for the job they do, give the volunteers of the community thanks for what they do. Kevin Wallington said it best, there are so many good volunteers in the community of Hay River. I have been a resident for four years and I am proud to be here. I'm proud to raise my daughter here. God bless the RCMP. God Bless Hay River.

Thank you. Is there anybody else?

Thanks, my name is Ken Latour. Just a few things I want to say. One is that there is a lot of talk focusing on the youth and I think it is very important because the youth are our future and the youth are more vulnerable than the rest of us, but I think we can't lose site of the fact that this is also and adult problem, and that there are many adult users and this wouldn't be going if there wasn't that population. The other things I think we need to think about a little bit and it is hard to because it is a complex issue and a complex problem for all of us and for our community. We are a lot about the supply there will always be supply. There has been supply for eons and it will continue to be. I think we also need to talk abt about the demand. Where that demand comes from. How we are failing certain segments of our community, as a community to create pocket of despair, create pockets of restlessness, pockets of just nothing to do so that people are reaching for drugs. I think we need to think about that issue even though it is a complicated one. We are not going to answer it as a community, just ourselves,

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but we can be part of that solution. I think volunteerism is a strong place to begin. I think part of the reason, or part of the way that we combat that despair, combat that demand is showing this community that we do care and you know there is a youth center that is always looking for funding. How long are we going to wait to get that funding, a long time, a long time. We don't need to wait, you know there is a few hundred people here. There is probably a few more hundred out there who wanted to come, thought about coming but didn't. There is a lot of resources we can access in this community. Why don't we have a Neighbourhood Watch? We should. Perhaps that's something else we can organize. Do we have a Big Brother, Big Sister organization in this community. A lot of time you are only successful turning people who are tempted by drugs by one on one contact through one on one mentorship. So those are all some suggestions some possibilities. I believe that National Addictions Week is coming up soon and maybe instead of waiting until after Christmas when we hear back from people maybe that's another opportunity for us to continue to showing this leadership and to continue the momentum. Maybe we should have another session where we can break up into small groups. It's tough to stand up here in front of the mic. Maybe we need to break up a bit so all of feel comfortable speaking. We can record our ideas, we can let the best ones come up and figure out how to organize and get some actions on some of these things.

Hi, my name is Mary Jane Martin. I'm originally from Yellowknife. Born and raised in Yellowknife. I moved here about eight years ago. I really like this place. I seen so many drugs back home and I just had enough. I have four children. I raised four children on my own. I have a thirty two year old daughter and a thirty year old son and my son had made a big change out of his life same with my daughter and myself too. Since I've been here I've ah. I used to drink, I'm an alcoholic, a recovering alcoholic. I used to smoke dope because I have arthritis and migraine all my life and I have been a drug addict and drug free for the last three years. There is a lot of comments, I really like what the people said in this room tonight. I am very, very proud of them. As a parent you need to spend more time with your children like one person said before and you need to be honest with tem and speak your mind instead of hush hush, and you got to be honest with yourself before you can be honest with anybody. You got to love yourself before you can love anybody. You got to give to yourself first and that is what I want to share with you guys as a parent and another thing is that I believe in my religion. I promised my father, five years ago when my father passed away he made me promise one thing. Never to forget, first is to love, second is to laugh, the third is to live. You got to have those three things and then you can do that to others, and another thing too, is you got to believe in yourself. You got to be ready to give and he made me promise that never to go to bed without a prayer and when you get up first thing in the morning praise the lord that you have another day cause you are breathing and you woke up alive and that's. My father was seventy five years old when he passed away and he, I have never seen drinking in my home, which I am very fortunate and when I was a kid, I've

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done. I've been to parties, drinking, doing alcoholic, smoking dope, whatever and I've never seen my mom and dad drink. I've never seen my mom smoke cigarette or running around. She devoted her life to us. Same thing with my father. My father was a recovering alcoholic when I was seven years old. I don't remember my father drinking, but the thing is we need to spend more time in being honest with our children. That's our responsibility too and I just wanted to share that as a parent and we should try to help each other out, another thing I see there is a lot of positive people in this town here, but when they know something a lot times they are scared to say something, they don't speak their mind and it's not really right. They should speak their mind instead of having to collect that garbage and that's why there are so many negative stuff happening too and we got to learn to help each other and I just wanted to share that with you guys and I'm very, very happy to be a member of Hay River and this where I'm going to live for a long long time. Thank you.

I've counted thirty eight speakers tonight and I hope I didn't lose count. As I said to you at the beginning our Council thought that this would be a good idea. I think it's helped a lot, I think there's been a lot of things said tonight, lot of questions asked. We will put that document together with the help of our MLA's. That document will be placed before the various levels of government and the agencies and we will get those answers back to you and I take the suggestion that we should have some of those agencies present when we get together at our next meeting which I think will be in the new year. So thank you very much for coming out tonight. I think you recognize how serious this issue is and how the death of this officer has been a tipping point in our community. So we are going to get candles and flowers here and I gotta tell you that there is more people here than we planned on so if you are a couple, if you could take one candle and one rose it would be appreciated to make sure that everybody either get a candle or a rose, and Donna is in charge of them and she is pretty made if you make a mistake. So when we get over there Keith is going to sing Amazing Grace, Chief Alec Sunrise will recite the Lord's Prayer, the Mayor will ask for one minute of silence, Keith Marshall leads us in O Canada, we will lay the flowers and sign the book. Thank you very much for coming out tonight.