

VENNER: The premier did not assign a budget to the new cabinet portfolio, but Groenewegen will work within her existing budget as health and social services minister. She will also collaborate with other departments like education and justice. Groenewegen does say there will be a number of new projects aimed at dealing with family violence announced over the next few weeks. She did not release any details. Megan Venner, CBC News, Yellowknife.

CBC Radio, October 30, 4:30 p.m.

CBC: The premier of the Northwest Territories says the legislative assembly needs to develop a social agenda. Stephen Kakfwi made the statement at a press conference opening the territory's first annual Family Violence Awareness Week. Kakfwi says his government has done a lot of work on economic issues, but he says there needs to be a focus on personal wellness.

KAKFWI: We have an economic agenda and a strategy. We haven't yet a very clear, strong, well-balanced, defined, what you would call social agenda. I think that would be probably a massive effort to put that together dealing with family violence, for instance.

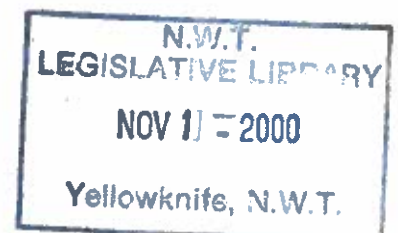
CBC: Kakfwi says there will be more money available as his government develops relationships with Ottawa and aboriginal governments. He says he hopes to see a social agenda take shape over the next few years.

CBC Special Report, October 30, 5:25 p.m.

CBC: This is the first day of the annual Northwest Territories Family Violence Awareness campaign. Premier Stephen Kakfwi proclaimed the week this morning at a news conference in Yellowknife. Here's some of the personal story he shared, for the record.

KAKFWI: A lot of these things that we have, it's not the government that's going to solve them. The government doesn't make people drink and beat up each other's wives and abuse children. People do that themselves. What we can do is draw attention to the fact that it's happening and break the cycle, break the silence and reach children while they are still young to realize that these things are not acceptable. They are not acceptable ways of treating people. I think that's what's going to make the difference.

I always remember the first year I was married I moved to Good Hope. At



one point, my niece, who was 12 at that time, in a private moment with my wife asked her if I beat her. My wife was very shocked about it and she said no, of course not. My niece got up and said well, he will. That's what she expected. That I was the exception. Today, I guess just about everybody in my family, seven sisters and my mother, and I don't think any of them have been exempt from the violence, violence against women. But I would say almost all of them have developed a zero tolerance for it because of people like myself and my other brother who showed that women are not to be beaten and abused. We break that cycle. We showed within our family and if we could just do it almost one family at a time, then it makes a big difference. Children see that. My niece is now grown up and she knows that. She knows that she doesn't have to accept that and she doesn't.

CBC: That was Premier Stephen Kakfwi speaking at a news conference this morning. He proclaimed this week the annual Northwest Territories Family Violence Awareness Week.

