



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**Wednesday, October 8, 2003**

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**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>1299</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1299</b>
101-14(6) - UPDATE ON THE NWT HYDRO DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE .....	1299
102-14(6) - GNWT RESPONSE TO MIRAMAR CON MINE .....	1300
103-14(6) - BETTER SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES AND TO GOVERNMENT .....	1300
104-14(6) - NWT HOUSING CORPORATION MINISTERIAL ACHIEVEMENTS .....	1301
105-14(6) - SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES .....	1302
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1303</b>
MR. DENT ON RCMP ACTIONS TO COMBAT CRIME IN DOWNTOWN YELLOWKNIFE .....	1303
MR. DELOREY ON REALIZING BENEFITS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.....	1304
MR. MCLEOD ON DEH CHO BRIDGE CONCESSION AGREEMENT .....	1305
MR. KRUTKO ON HOMEOWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE PARENTS.....	1305
MR. BELL ON DOWNTURN IN NWT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES .....	1306
MR. LAFFERTY ON COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS ON GNWT CAPITAL PLANNING PROCESS .....	1306
MS. LEE ON LAID-OFF CON MINE WORKERS.....	1307
MR. ROLAND ON ADDRESSING SPECIAL NEEDS IN NWT CLASSROOMS .....	1307
MR. BRADEN ON NEED FOR A DEMENTIA FACILITY .....	1308
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON MEDICAL TRAVEL COSTS.....	1308
MR. NITAH ON DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT .....	1308
HON. VINCE STEEN ON SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE NUNAKPUT CONSTITUENCY .....	1309
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>1309</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>1310</b>
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>1321</b>
<b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>1321</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>1321</b>
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>1321, 1322</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>1321, 1353</b>
<b>THIRD READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>1353</b>
BILL 21 - PROTECTION AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE ACT .....	1353
BILL 33 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, No. 4, 2002-2003 .....	1353
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>1353</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, October 8, 2003****Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Colleagues, before I go to the first item, I would just like to direct your attention to the presence in visitors' gallery of several delegates from the Western Arctic aboriginal head start program. Please make them welcome.

---Applause

They will only be here for a short time. They have other business to attend to. Item 2, Ministers' statements.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 101-14(6): Update On The NWT Hydro Development Initiative**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker at the beginning of this fiscal year, I provided Members of the Legislative Assembly with an update on hydro development opportunities in the North and outlined some plans to pursue those opportunities. These plans included:

- Entering into an MOU with the Tulita Yamouria Secretariat and the Deline Land Corporation to pursue the opportunity of supplying hydro power to the Mackenzie Valley pipeline from a development on the Great Bear Lake.
- Entering into a MOU with the Akaitcho Regional Investment Corporation and the South Slave Metis Economic Corporation to pursue business opportunities related to the development of the Taltson River system and supplying the De Beers Mine at Snap Lake with hydro power.

I would like to provide Members with an update on the results of these two initiatives.

**South Slave**

In the South Slave, the technical feasibility work for a development to supply the Snap Lake Mine has been progressing on schedule. Detailed discussions with De Beers are underway to determine:

- The exact power requirements of the mine.
- The power solution that is the best fit. We may need to initially supply the mine with diesel power if hydro power cannot be guaranteed to be onsite for the mine's opening. A decision on this issue is expected by the end of October.

Representatives of our Akaitcho and Metis partners are involved in these meetings and will be involved in any power

solution developed for the Snap Lake Mine. The MOU with the Akaitcho and Metis was signed in June and contribution agreements have been in place since July. We had hoped to have a detailed memorandum of intent in place by September, but as I am sure the Members can appreciate, it is a complicated process. All parties are working together in good faith and we hope to have a detailed agreement in place in the coming months.

**Sahtu**

In the Sahtu, the MOU with our Deline and Tulita partners has been in place since April and it contained the following objectives:

- a) to conduct pre-feasibility work on the hydroelectricity development on the Bear River that can provide power to a proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline.
- b) to develop a detailed MOI between the Energy Corporation, Deline and Tulita.
- c) to engage in discussions with the Mackenzie Valley producers group for the purchase of hydroelectric power.

We have an excellent working relationship with the Deline Land Corporation and the Tulita Yamouria Secretariat and I am pleased to report we have made substantial progress in a number of areas.

- Deline and Tulita working group members have made presentations to schools and to elders.
- Detailed models and posters have been produced that will show the people of Deline and Tulita what a development on the Great Bear River will look like.
- A group that included Deline and Tulita elders and youth have traveled to Winnipeg to learn about similar hydro developments and to meet with the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation to learn from their experience with hydro development.
- Additional pre-feasibility work has been completed and the potential of this development continues to look very promising.
- Deline, Tulita and the Energy Corporation personnel have worked together to produce a draft MOI that will be completed this fall.
- Three meetings have been held with Imperial Oil to discuss the potential for hydroelectricity to power the pipeline.

The last meeting held with Imperial Oil was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. A proposal on the concept of providing hydroelectric

power to the pipeline was provided to Imperial and a presentation was given by Leroy Andre from Deline. Imperial had previously raised a number of issues that this presentation appeared to address. We are currently waiting for an official reply from Imperial and expect further discussions to focus on the issue of pricing.

I have stated many times the development of our hydroelectric resources will be the key to long-term sustainability of the North. Large scale industry should be encouraged to utilize this clean power where feasible to do so. Communities will benefit from a source of clean, affordable power and future generations will have a lasting legacy. An economic renewable source of power has the potential to be the backbone of the NWT economy long after our non-renewable resources are depleted. The government will be faced with many challenging decisions that will impact the long-term sustainability of the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Colleagues, you will forgive me for not having done something here. I would like to draw your attention to the stranger in the House today. Please help me welcome, in his observer role today, the Clerk-designate, Mr. Tim Mercer.

---Applause

The new Clerk will be sworn in as our Clerk on October 10<sup>th</sup>. That is Friday. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**Minister's Statement 102-14(6): GNWT Response To Miramar Con Mine**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise today to advise my colleagues of the actions being taken by the Government of the Northwest Territories to assist the workers affected by the Miramar Con Mine closure.

Mr. Speaker, with the Premier and my Cabinet colleagues, we have coordinated efforts to respond in an effective and timely manner to support our residents by identifying options available to assist those whose lives are being affected.

The people who are going to feel the most impact are the families involved. Within these families, we have our friends, our neighbours, volunteers in all our sectors, our sports coaches, people who have added so much to the fabric of the community.

As well as the changes for the workers' lives, Mr. Speaker, there will be an economic impact. We are speaking of the loss of many direct and indirect jobs from the Yellowknife economy. Mr. Speaker, as a government, we are doing our utmost to support those affected by the closure of this mine.

Through the Department of Education, Culture and Employment we are working in conjunction with Human Resources Development Canada to provide direct support for the employees of Miramar Con Mine. ECE is ensuring that workers are receiving informational sessions on a regular basis. These sessions highlight the options available to people for retraining, upgrading, work search skills, student financial assistance, self-employment option, apprenticeship training and training on the job.

ECE will also be working closely with David Milne, a consultant hired by Miramar Con Mine to assist workers with their transition planning to ensure their needs are being met.

Mr. Speaker, another GNWT department that has been active on this issue is the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. While Miramar and the city of Yellowknife are the key partners to initiate the potential land transfer process, MACA continues to participate on a number of committees established to review environmental and process-related issues regarding the potential surrender and transfer of the trailer court lands.

MACA has been represented on the Con/Rycon Land Acquisition Subcommittee since its inception in 2001 and has provided technical information and land transfer procedural advice to the committee. MACA is also a member of the GNWT's task team established to develop options and strategies for dealing with environmental and risk mitigation issues associated with the potential transfer of the trailer court lands and to provide advice on an as-and-when needed basis.

The final piece of this transition plan comes, Mr. Speaker, through the closing of the facility itself. Historically, abandoned mines have been associated with a legacy of environmental degradation in the NWT. With the announced closure, the need for an effective abandonment and reclamation plan of the Miramar Con Mine has taken on a renewed importance. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Municipal and Community Affairs and Health and Social services are working with the federal government, municipal governments, aboriginal organizations and the mining industry to review Miramar's proposed plan. Mr. Speaker, through this broad-based approach, we will ensure that this mine's legacy does not include long-term environmental degradation.

Since taking over the operation of the Con Mine in 1993, Miramar Mining Limited has contributed positively to the overall prosperity of the Northwest Territories. We anticipated that the company will continue to act as a good corporate citizen as the mine now prepares for closure.

Through this broad-based approach, Mr. Speaker, we intend to help the employees, the community and the territory during this period of transition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

**Minister's Statement 103-14(6): Better Services To Communities And To Government**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to talk today about the accomplishments of the Department of Public Works and Services during the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

I am especially proud of the contribution that Public Works and Services has made to the interdepartmental team working on the safe water initiative. Public Works and Services, along with Municipal and Community Affairs, Health and Social Services and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, have collaborated on a number of activities aimed at ensuring that every NWT community has safe drinking water.

These efforts include practical approaches, like inspecting and assessing the water supply systems in all non-tax-based communities, providing technical advice and assistance to

community water system operators, and assisting with planning of facility improvements. The department also led development of a framework and strategy for managing the NWT drinking water system which will be used to guide future system improvements. The success of Public Works and Services staff and other members of the team in ensuring safe drinking water is reflected in the test results that are now posted on the Internet as part of the Public Works and Services Web site.

Another important step taken to ensure the health of NWT residents has been the completing of environmental assessments of the tank farms operated through the petroleum products division. As part of our voluntary compliance agreement with RWED, the department has developed a plan for remediation of sites, beginning this year at several locations.

During the last four years, Mr. Speaker, many important facilities have been built across the NWT. The total value of these projects exceeds \$164 million. I would like to highlight a few of the projects. Two of the largest and most complex buildings ever managed by the department were constructed in Yellowknife and Inuvik. Other projects, such as the new Fort McPherson water source and the renovations to several schools in the South Slave, are providing services locally. Whatever the program area, the efforts of Public Works and Services staff have benefited residents throughout the North.

Mr. Speaker, because of its broad expertise in construction and operation of northern facilities, PWS has been developing publications to assist communities and contractors in the design and construction of northern facilities. The good building practice manual has been well received by the construction industry and serves as a guide for design consultants. A booklet and checklist on fire prevention in public buildings has been widely distributed and actively used. A third publication is almost ready for publication. That one is called Good Engineering Practice for Northern Water and Sewer Systems. It will serve as an additional building block in the structure that is in place to protect our community drinking water.

On the national scene, Mr. Speaker, PWS has taken the lead in representing NWT interests before the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission. The result of this work has been the designation of the three territories as high-cost serving areas. Southern telephone companies are now required to subsidize NorthwesTel operations. With this support, NorthwesTel has started a \$75 million, four-year system improvement plan that will result in a total infrastructure upgrade to their facilities, and thus better quality telecommunications services for residents. We can now expect to get the same basic array of telecommunication services in our small northern communities as are available in larger centres in southern Canada. Moreover we continue to pay for these services at rates that are comparable to other jurisdictions rather than at rates that reflect the much higher cost of providing the service in the North.

Many of the services that Public Works and Services provides are designed to support departments in the delivery of their programs. While they may not be visible to those outside of government, they are critical for the effective delivery of the programs that northern residents rely on. Nowhere are these services more important than in the field of computer systems and data communications. The department has recently established a storage area network to support introduction of major data systems that are under development by various departments. They have also improved computer security by

implementing a corporate firewall, virus protection and spam filtering systems. In Yellowknife, a fibre optics network has been set up to handle the large amount of data being transmitted between GNWT buildings.

Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed my years as Minister of Public Works and Services. It is a practical department, providing concrete services that have an impact on our everyday lives. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at PWS for their hard work and loyal support throughout these years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

#### **Minister's Statement 104-14(6): NWT Housing Corporation Ministerial Achievements**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise before the Members of this Assembly today to report on the achievements made by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation over the term of this Legislative Assembly. The corporation's achievements over the past four years include new initiatives designed to tackle specific housing issues, improved programs and services, and a continuing commitment to improving housing conditions for the residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the corporation developed the affordable housing strategy in 2001 to address specific housing issues in the Northwest Territories and in response to growing concerns over the availability and affordability of housing. This strategy resulted in the development and construction of approximately 650 housing units over a four-year period. Under the affordable housing strategy, new public housing units were constructed to house seniors and singles. As well, the independent homeownership program and the expanded down-payment assistant program allowed for the construction of new private homes. Through its support of the private housing industry, the affordable housing strategy also facilitated the construction...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister Allen, may I interrupt for a moment. Would you be able to slow down your statement? The interpreters are having a difficult time keeping up with you. Thank you.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to recognize the time on the clock. Thank you. Through its support of the private housing industry, the affordable housing strategy also facilitated the construction of private rental market units.

The Housing Corporation's mandate of improving housing conditions throughout the Northwest Territories has allowed it to assist not only those in core need, but to assist working families who need help dealing with our high cost of living. The fuel rebate initiative delivered in 2000 provided assistance to help households cope with the increased cost of heating fuel. On behalf of the GNWT, the corporation assisted 3349 families, with a total payment of \$922,000.

The Housing Corporation remains committed to increasing the impact of the housing industry on employment and business development. One aspect of the corporation's commitment to

industry is the corporate loan guarantee program. This program provides interim financing to lending institutions, helping to stimulate the development of private market housing. As of March 31, 2003, guarantees totaling \$13.1 million were in place on projects valued at a total of \$26 million.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most significant achievements of the Housing Corporation over the past four years is the development of a strategy to tackle the issue of homelessness in the Northwest Territories. The Housing Corporation has long recognized the plight of the homeless, and programs such as the affordable housing strategy, the singles housing initiative, and various hard to house initiatives have all made important contributions to the fight against homelessness. Under my direction, an interdepartmental working group was created, and the working group produced the homelessness strategy paper. This paper pulls together the important programs being offered by the corporation, along with programs offered by the departments of Justice, Health and Social Services, and Education, Culture and Employment. It offers important recommendations that will help us make a significant impact on the problem. Through cooperation with community partners, the corporation is creating an environment of support to help homeless people.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation remains committed to improving housing conditions in the Northwest Territories. By examining creative solutions and working closely with our partners, we can make meaningful change to the residents of the NWT. My recent meeting with my federal counterpart, the Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State for Selected Crown Corporations, as well as the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew summarizes the spirit of this success. The meeting was held in Yellowknife and included senior officials of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as well as our own NWT Housing Corporation.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for both groups to identify common issues, shared challenges and discuss new ways that each organization could help to provide support to the other. Mr. Speaker, we also used this opportunity to identify important housing issues facing NWT residents and sought assistance and support from our federal counterparts to assist with identifying solutions.

Some of the key discussions included obtaining support from our partners in CMHC to assist the NWT to look at a new funding formula. It is clear that a simple per capita funding model cannot and will not solve the complex housing problems that the NWT faces. We were encouraged by our federal partners, as Secretary of State Mahoney clearly recognized the substantial contribution that GNWT has made to housing of \$48.5 million, compared to the CMHYC contribution under the affordable housing agreement of \$7.5 million over five years. This meeting facilitated an opportunity for the NWT Housing Corporation to inform CMHC of the progress it has been making under the affordable housing strategy as well as clearly outline the need for increased federal commitment.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the meeting was an excellent opportunity for both organizations to discuss new ideas and possible solutions to housing problems. It is clear that the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the NWT Housing Corporation can share resources and ideas to work together to help resolve housing challenges for all residents of the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6) so that all Ministers' statements with the Clerk can be delivered today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to complete all of the Ministers' statements that are before the House today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may complete your statement, Mr. Steen.

#### **Minister's Statement 105-14(6): Supporting Communities**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to speak about the accomplishments of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs during the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the last four years have been a challenge for all of us. The Department of MACA has risen to that challenge. While continuing to provide both general support and direct assistance to communities through programs and services, we have also managed to respond to community interests and priorities by adding new programs.

A key component of MACA's programs has always been our support for community governments. One of our most important contributions is the financial aid we provide to community governments, which ensures they have the necessary tools and resources to address their needs. Since 2001, MACA has worked on revising our approach to community government funding in order to provide community governments with a workable and appropriate level of funding. We took 10 individual programs, which has provided inequitable levels of funding to community governments, and replaced them with three simplified programs relating to community funding formula, infrastructure funding and request for extraordinary funding. I am glad to report that the new approach reduces the administrative burden for communities and increases community authority and responsibility, while providing greater flexibility to address community priorities.

Mr. Speaker, many MLAs may have heard recently of the difficulties facing community governments in acquiring insurance. MACA has worked extensively with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities to provide funding and support for the creation of the northern communities insurance exchange. This will give our community governments access to a workable and cost-effective alternative to traditional insurance.

Mr. Speaker, MACA is not just a source of funding for community governments. We continue to play an important role in the training needs of community government staff through the delivery of programs from our School of community Government. Since its inception, the school has provided training for senior administrative officers, housing managers, lands officers, bylaw officer training, and finance and public works management. In addition, the introduction of occupational standards and certification for senior administrative officers and other community employees provides professional recognition and certainty regarding competence. These activities demonstrate the department's commitment to develop the abilities for community government councils and employees so that they can manage increasing authorities and responsibilities. MACA will continue to develop and deliver programs as additional. Training requirements are identified.



Mr. Speaker, we believe that our programs must meet the needs of all community governments. For those communities that are non-tax-based, MACA has established two new programs: the community initiatives program and the main street chip sealing program. The community initiatives program is a way of assisting the non-tax-based...

**MR. SPEAKER:** There is a Point of Order raised. Mr. Krutko, what is your Point of Order?

#### Point Of Order

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a Point of Order that any issues that are before the House, especially Committee of the Whole, are not to be discussed outside of Committee of the Whole and I believe the Municipal Statutes Replacement Act is in Committee of the Whole.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member has stated that the matter that is being spoken of by the Minister is in Committee of the Whole. There are times when the chair acts stringently on it and other times when we are a little bit more relaxed. Although the honourable Member is correct, the matter is in Committee of the Whole, it's not in contravention with that and it doesn't harm it in any way. So I will rule the Point of Order out of order. Continue, Mr. Minister.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community initiatives program is a way of assisting the non-tax-based communities to address local priorities in the areas of families and youth, healthy lifestyles and safety education with a special emphasis on active living. Main street chip sealing program also improves the quality of life for residents in these communities by improving road conditions and reducing dust. MACA continues to work to address the concerns and needs of non-tax-based communities in other ways.

In 2001, MACA provided community governments with support and assistance for monitoring community financial issues. Financial and auditing standards were developed to provide community governments with a baseline for reporting purposes. A community financial trends monitoring report was begun in 2000 and is now updated annually to provide community governments and MACA with the tools to identify issues which can be improved upon.

Mr. Speaker, issues related to land have always been high on the agenda of MACA. To help us better manage Commissioner's land in the NWT, MACA has developed a land administration strategic plan which will set out a framework and provide direction for future administration of Commissioner's land within the NWT. Another tool recently developed by MACA is the administration of Territorial Lands Act system, also known as ATLAS, which serves to integrate graphical and textural information for each parcel of Commissioner's land in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, while this technology is new and under development, it will serve as an important tool for community governments, aboriginal governments and any other stakeholders with an interest in land management.

Mr. Speaker, when possible, MACA shares costs and programs with other departments and governments in an effort to economize. I am pleased to report that through a partnership with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, MACA expects to have satellite imagery for 25 communities in place by the end of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, MACA has also worked hard over the past four years to revitalize the sport and recreation system in the NWT. We have increased funding levels to community governments and regional recreational associations. We have established regional staff positions to help us better promote active living, sport and recreation. MACA took the lead in the department of an active living strategy in 2002-2003. I fully expect that, during the life of this government, MACA will complete establishment of a new governance structure for sport and recreation. This will help us better ensure an equitable access to programs and funding for all communities.

MACA continues to develop and support programs related to water and sewer by cost sharing water and sewage treatment expenses for tax-based municipalities along with assisting non-tax-based communities to correct water and sewer system deficiencies. As we undertake this work in partnership with other GNWT departments and community governments, we recognize that water quality and sewage disposal are critically important for the health and well-being of all NWT residents.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that during the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, legislative change has also taken place. We have made amendments to the Fire Prevention Act, the Consumer Protection Act, and the Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act. More recently, I am pleased to report that the Municipal Statutes Replacement Act is currently before the House. I anticipate that this very important legislation will be enacted before the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly and will give our community government partners the tools they need to effectively address current issues as well as plan for the ongoing evolution of governance in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, this is a summary of some of our more noteworthy programs and accomplishments during the last four years. Programs and funding are wonderful things but they are nothing without the dedication and support of the people who work in this area. Community leaders and staff, recreation professionals and community volunteers make things happen in our communities. Associations and organizations work to advance community issues on a regional and territorial basis. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 120 professionals who make up MACA's workforce. It is a pleasure to thank all of my staff, both at headquarters and in regional offices, for their dedication, perseverance and commitment to our programs, services and the people we serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

#### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

##### Member's Statement On RCMP Actions To Combat Crime In Downtown Yellowknife

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, the RCMP detained a number of people, made arrests and confiscated alcohol and drugs from adults and minors in downtown Yellowknife. I would like to thank the RCMP for taking action. This kind of operation is necessary to ensure the safety of Yellowknife residents and to protect property in the area. Without such an RCMP crackdown, it would be like turning a blind eye. We would be saying to people that bad behaviour is okay, but Mr. Speaker, it really

isn't. We must send the message that crime, violence and substance abuse is not acceptable behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, the problem will not go away with one weekend of action. So I welcome the RCMP commitment to continue this kind of enforcement because the problem downtown has gotten out of hand.

For over a decade, there's been no increase in the number of officers in the Yellowknife detachment. In a community of nearly 20,000, we have 30 officers. The RCMP says we need another nine. Like nearly all communities in the North, we are suffering because there hasn't been enough money put into policing to keep up with growing populations and crime rates.

Beyond funding for policing, Mr. Speaker, this government has another area of responsibility. The problems we see downtown and more and more in other northern communities are usually the result of social causes. While local communities have some responsibilities, the root causes are a direct responsibility of this government and need more attention. We must look at what causes violence, crime and substance abuse and provide support to our community residents and the agencies that help them.

In the midst of incredible prosperity, there are people in despair. We cannot just sweep them under the rug or into jail cells. That only puts the problem out of sight for a short time. Mr. Speaker, we need to bring more focus on preventing the causes of these dangerous behaviours. We need more support for families living with poverty. We need more programs and funding for community-based family literacy. We must provide more training opportunities for our residents to become part of this great economic boom we are experiencing.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing new here. We've known all this for quite some time. We know it because people have told us this over and over again. At the founding conference for the social agenda in Hay River, people from across the Territories came with their hearts and minds open and are willing to work with the government to improve social conditions.

However, Mr. Speaker, the government's only real action in response to community concerns outlined in the social agenda today has been to fund demonstration projects. Mr. Speaker, I doubt that any of those enthusiastic participants from the Social Agenda conference have much faith left in the commitment of this government to the Social Agenda. Their efforts, experience and commitments have largely been ignored.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Dent, you may conclude.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, the government got Northerners excited by raising the profile of the Social Agenda, but now frontline workers and government agencies are wondering about the lack of action.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a missed opportunity. A dollar invested in prevention is saved many times over in reduced social costs in the future. I know I have heard the Minister of Health and Social Services and other Cabinet Members talk about the importance of prevention. Mr. Speaker, it's too bad we

didn't try harder to actually invest more in prevention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

#### **Member's Statement On Realizing Benefits From Economic Development Initiatives**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity over the last four years to receive firsthand information and offer my views on behalf of my constituents on the enormous opportunities that continue to unfold for our territory. Mr. Speaker, industries like diamond mining, oil and gas, hydro electricity and tourism, any of which any province or territory would be proud to have are all possible here in the North. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, for every one of these developing industries, our communities and governments are faced with the challenges that increased development presents.

Mr. Speaker, whenever we talk about opportunities available to us, we are inevitably faced with the question of how do we find enough money to deal with the challenges and survive long enough to realize the benefits. We have become accustomed, Mr. Speaker, to facts and figures like employment rates of 70 percent, an unemployment rate of eight percent, projected revenues of \$31 billion from oil and gas and diamond mine resources and untold jobs for our residents. Mr. Speaker, we have also begun to speak lightly of our \$1 billion budget and \$300 million borrowing limit which we are fast approaching and one-time windfalls to this government of \$80 million.

I believe all these figures are very significant, Mr. Speaker, as is the \$80 million in federal funding announced this week for infrastructure development in the North.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend everyone for securing this money from Minister Allan Rock to the NWT Business Coalition and moreover, the 19 Members of this assembly who have stuck together in our belief that in order to meet our challenges, we need the help of the federal government.

For myself, Mr. Speaker, it's about doing everything in our power to retain jobs and long-term benefits for Northerners including sustainable businesses. For example, Mr. Speaker, when we hear about opportunities connected with the development of oil and gas and a Mackenzie Valley pipeline, such is the need for some 20 bridges and a pipe coding facility, I believe it is our duty to look at every avenue available to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to directly benefit from these projects.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Delorey, you may conclude.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, industry will gladly keep getting their services from the South unless we, through a social economic impact benefit agreement, force them to keep it in the North

where it belongs. Mr. Speaker, we did it for the diamond industry. Let's not drop the ball on other industries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement On Deh Cho Bridge Concession Agreement**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members will know that the community of Fort Providence has been working for the last three years towards an agreement to construct a bridge over the Deh Cho. This has been a huge undertaking that has been recognized in the Northwest Territories and on the national stage as an important element of the national highway system and for the economy of the NWT. It has also been recognized as a model for community and aboriginal participation in our economy. It has been a priority for me, as MLA for the Deh Cho. Since its inception two years ago, the idea has progressed steadily from a dream to a probability. The final approvals necessary to make this project a reality are within our grasp and construction could begin within the next few months.

Progress could be made possible by the belief, commitment and hard work of many people. In particular, I want to acknowledge the support and commitment of the Minister of Transportation, Honourable Joe Handley, who has been instrumental in this project from the outset; the Premier Stephen Kakfwi and Cabinet; all my colleagues in this House; the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew; and, the Honourable Robert Nault; and also the management staff of the territorial departments of Transportation, RWED and the management staff of DIAND regional office. Of course, I must acknowledge with some pride the vision and initiative of the leaders and residents of Fort Providence. They have been consistent in their support and determination to move this proposal forward.

The signing of the memorandum of intent in November 2002 was a big step forward and the passage in this House of the Deh Cho Bridge Act in June of this year was another huge step forward. I am pleased to advise that Premier Stephen Kakfwi and Minister Handley have been invited to Fort Providence to initial the concession agreement on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This agreement will define the relationship between the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation and the GNWT throughout the construction and concession stages. It will allow the corporation to move forward with finalizing, financing, permitting and contract arrangements. Mr. Speaker, in two short years from now, I expect to be witnessing the ribbon cutting of a bridge crossing the Deh Cho.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

---Applause

**MR. MCLEOD:** I also hope to be doing so as the MLA for the Deh Cho.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

---Applause

**MR. MCLEOD:** I hope to be inviting all of you to attend. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

#### **Member's Statement On Homeownership And Maintenance Programs For Single Parents**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one thing that I have noticed over the last number of years is we are seeing more and more single parents being homeowners. These single mothers are trying to maintain a home through separation and divorce. They find themselves in the situation of not only maintaining the family, but now being the sole provider in the home and also trying to maintain the home which, in most cases are old units which were originally HAP units and are now reaching an age of improvements and maintaining them through programs in this government.

One thing that frustrates a lot of single mothers is because the cost of maintaining their homes, they don't meet the threshold this government uses. It's important to realize that there are more and more single parents out there, especially mothers, who are in this situation. I have met with many of them, along with the Minister, to try to find a solution or a program that is specifically designed for them.

We find that these individual mothers have applied through Housing Corporation programs. They have managed to meet the criteria and then once they were qualified, they find that they were told they can't find a contractor or this program won't come in line this year, so you will have to wait until the following year. When the following year comes around, there is no money. The money has been lapsed or spent on other projects.

The Minister made reference to his meeting with the federal Minister and also working with CMHC to work to find new scenarios and new programs. This government could take the situation of how single mothers who are maintaining a home and raising a family and are in a situation where they are living in rundown homes because of poor maintenance and the high cost of maintaining the home, which they are responsible to maintain.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the Minister on this matter. I have dealt with four or five individuals directly with the Minister where I have gone with the regional staff into these individuals' homes to look at the condition of these homes and they are very much in need of assistance.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you may conclude.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, there are costs associated with maintaining a home. You have to deal with the day-to-day bills that come with raising a family and also the cost of maintaining the home with relation to your power bill, your fuel bill, your water and sewer bill, your property tax bills. All these things add up, especially if you are a single mother trying to raise a family.

I think it's important as a government that we try to find new programs that assist and don't put roadblocks in front of

individuals because they don't have the mechanical skills. They are not carpenters, they don't have the abilities to fix and repair their homes themselves and they find these obstacles put in front of them.

So, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

#### **Member's Statement On Downturn In NWT High School Graduation Rates**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I read a bit of a disturbing clipping in the media today that was talking about graduation rates across the Northwest Territories and the fact that they were coming down. This is something that I've been tracking for some time, Mr. Speaker. It's a concern of mine. Indeed, I think it's a concern of all of ours.

I've looked at my own community, Yellowknife, and noticed that the graduation rate since 1999 to 2000 has gone from about 64 percent, then down to 59 percent the next year and last year down to about 57 percent, Mr. Speaker.

This is a concern for all of us. It's something that we need to certainly be studying. I'm not going to stand here today and say that this Minister, this Department of Education, Culture and Employment and all the good folks working for the department are responsible for these numbers, but they are certainly accountable. This is the kind of information that I expect the ministry to present to us and I think it's on the ministry to engage us in a discussion about our performance so that we can get to the root of this problem and seek to address the issues that are causing it.

A number of my colleagues in this House throughout the last week have been talking about this kind of thing. I think it's vital, Mr. Speaker, that we own up to this and seek to address it. It's important that we also look at best practices.

I would note in the regional centres that there has been a bit of an anomaly, a blip from 1999 to 2000 when we saw our number of graduates go from 49 up to 73 the next year, and then back to 49. I'm wondering if the department has looked at this anomaly to determine if, in fact, this is accurate or if they can point their finger at something that went on right this year that we can seek to repeat. It's important that we do, Mr. Speaker.

I recently, in the mail, got a study on education policy. It's something that the Fraser Institute puts out. I thought it was interesting for a number of reasons. It's interesting because it assesses performance across the provinces. Typically, I think we'd tend to believe that the more money a province spends on education, the better the performance of its students. It seems intuitive, Mr. Speaker. It's not necessarily the case.

Something that was really interesting was that Alberta, which consistently scores academically at the top in terms of provinces, does not come on top in terms of two other categories often associated with high achievement, those being small classes and more spending on education. So what is it,

Mr. Speaker? We've had a lot of discussion about PTR and the need to address student needs.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to see unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Bell is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Bell. You may conclude.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The social programs committee has consistently said that PTR is fine. It was important for us to put money there, but student support is also critical and very important. I don't want to be alarmist, Mr. Speaker, but clearly this downward trend is something that we have to address now before it gets critical.

Mr. Speaker, in the United States many of us will be familiar with the No Child Left Behind Act that President Bush signed on January the 8<sup>th</sup> of 2002. The guiding principles are such things as accountability of results, focusing on what works, reducing bureaucracy, increasing flexibility, empowering parents and guardians.

This is the point that I think is very important, Mr. Speaker. I think that we've had a lot of discussion about the have and have-not communities and the growing gap. We recognize it's there. If we're going to talk about improving quality of life and economic opportunities across the entire territory and, indeed, in the smallest communities it will be and will start with the improvement in our education system. When I say education system I don't just mean teachers and principals and the department. I mean our community leaders, mayors, chiefs, councillors, teachers, elders, parents and students. There's enough of this, Mr. Speaker, for us to all take on our shoulders and try to carry it forward. Indeed, I believe we have to do that in the next Assembly.

One more point, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important that we make examples of young, successful role models like Amy Mersch. My colleague who represents Fort Resolution mentioned that the department was in Fort Resolution to have a ceremony for her and her graduation. I think it's critical that we hold people like Amy up as examples of what can go right when we work together. My congratulations to her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

#### **Member's Statement On Community Consultations On GNWT Capital Planning Process**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, I received a letter from the Premier outlining how a deputy ministers' task team has been created on meeting infrastructure requirements. The point of this team is to clarify the GNWT capital planning process between the GNWT and the communities in the North. Mr. Speaker, I was discouraged when I read this. To me, it is more busy work created by the upper levels of government which won't address the real issues.

There is a huge communication gap between the department heads deciding which projects go in which community and what the community actually wants or needs. There is also a lack of

coordination between departments which results in delays and cost overruns on projects.

Last spring I travelled with officials from the GNWT into the communities in my region. Meetings were held with the people of the communities to hear what projects they felt would be of most benefit. The minutes of these meetings were sent to the communities and to my office. To date, no action has been taken. Mr. Speaker, I don't think this government realizes how frustrating this is.

What has been happening and what continues to happen is that projects and equipment are selected for communities without input from the community. For example, I've heard how a community was given the choice of either having a grader or a cat. The community really wanted a bobcat, but wasn't allowed to choose what would be best for the community. They had to choose between a grader or a cat, which wasn't their choice.

Mr. Speaker, how can we empower communities when we are still directing their choices? I have heard numerous examples of how government officials have come into the communities and told community members what the community needs, whether it be a new arena, fire hall or other such building. There is no dialogue between the people deciding the projects and the people who will use the projects. It is a top-down approach and it doesn't meet the community needs.

I'm sure you can understand how difficult it is for communities to do long-range planning when consultation is only given lip service. Instead of studying the problem, I encourage the government to open its ears, become involved in the actual communities and listen to the residents. Only then will useful decisions be made about which projects to fund in order to meet the needs of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### **Member's Statement On Laid-off Con Mine Workers**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight once again the issues related to the Con Mine workers who are facing a lay-off at the end of this month and next. I've been talking to many of them, Mr. Speaker, and they all certainly have different stories. Some of them have been lucky and have been spared from the lay-off because they have the seniority to keep their jobs for now. For others, they are actively seeking other employment opportunities within the city and surrounding areas. But there are quite a few of them who have decided to put their homes for sale and are preparing to leave town.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important for us to know and understand deeply that this will be a profound loss for us in losing any of these workers from our community and territory. When one of them goes, the entire family will go and that means we'll lose their community and volunteer services; we'll lose their share of the tax base; we'll lose their share of the transfer payments we get from the federal government; we'll lose important human resources. Many of the spouses are nurses, for example, Mr. Speaker, and goodness knows we cannot afford to lose any of these nurses. The spouses of these workers are as important a human resource to us as the mine workers.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that this government has responded very well to various aspects of this issue, but a lot of work has yet to be done. We must be relentless in our efforts. There is no question, Mr. Speaker, of the importance of the government to work out a deal to see the transfer of the land to the Con Mine trailer park residents. But there's more, Mr. Speaker. The government must do all it can to train and retain the workers that are laid off. There's a lot of work that needs to be done at the mine site until it's closed and reclaimed, and these workers should be put to work at those positions. They're the ones who know the mine site inside and out, they know what's in there, they're trained and experienced in dealing with the hazardous materials on the surface and underground and these workers should be used before southern workers are brought up.

Mr. Speaker, this was asked by many when the Giant Mine shut down, but this did not happen. I believe we have an opportunity now to do this differently. This government must work closely with the company and regulatory body to work out a plan to employ as many laid-off workers as possible from the mine to work in all aspects of devolution, abandonment and reclamation of the site.

Mr. Speaker, many of these workers have given their life to this mine and this city and I believe they have earned the right to ask the government to do what is right and do everything they can so these people can continue to stay in the North and be a part of our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

#### **Member's Statement On Addressing Special Needs In NWT Classrooms**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak about an issue that's not new to this forum. Mr. Speaker, many Members in this Assembly have spoken about the schools and the need for assistance for students in those schools, especially in the area of special needs, Mr. Speaker. It's been talked about on numerous occasions. The Minister has responded a number of times. There have been studies and so on. Yet, we seem to still have the problems of how we deal with the special needs situations in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, I know from the past a person who was on a district education authority in Inuvik that, for example, half of the children going into kindergarten required a speech therapist. Unfortunately, right now in Inuvik we don't have such a person on staff either in the Department of Education, Culture and Employment or the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about all we want to do for our children, but it seems when it comes to the very critical age of doing something for them at the youngest age when they enter our systems we say sorry, we don't have enough. We've passed all the money on to our DEAs and DEC's and they're doing what they can with it.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to know if this government in this life that we've been in as 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly Members, have we done anything to try and address the needs of special needs and support services in the classroom? Now, I know we've put some money into it, but have we done further than just saying here's a few dollars to it? Have we undergone anything that we

can go and call a strategy that's going to be implemented and make a difference in the lives of those students so that when they move on in grades they're not just going as peer advancement or social pass, but they're going up and they're achieving their grades and will be ready for the world when we so-called graduate them.

I will have questions for the appropriate Minister later. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

#### **Member's Statement On Need For A Dementia Facility**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my ongoing concerns on the floor of the Assembly here has been the need for affordable and adequate housing for every person in the Northwest Territories. One of the fastest growing housing and care issues that we have in the NWT is for Alzheimer's and dementia patients, Mr. Speaker. In Canada, one in 13 people over the age of 65 has a dementia disease. One in four Canadian families is affected by it. Mr. Speaker, 83,000 new cases will be diagnosed this year. It is growing. By the turn of the decade that will grow to 111,000 new cases a year.

Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors has been a strong advocate for seniors' facilities and for this particular type of care here in the NWT. I'd like to acknowledge again, this can't be done enough, Mr. Speaker, the outstanding contributions of the volunteer members of this board and their administration of the service that they've performed in bringing this to the fore and getting things done.

Mr. Speaker, more has also taken place for families themselves, families supporting the victims of this disease who have come together to help themselves. We have in Yellowknife, at least, a chapter of the Alberta Alzheimer's Society. These families have formed their own support group and they are meeting regularly. They are doing more to help themselves.

Here in the NWT government, Mr. Miltenberger has been supportive of the association's efforts to move things along. A consultant's study was received in June and this study clearly substantiates the growing need for a dementia facility and it goes on to outline the philosophy of care and requirement. The need for a dementia facility is here today and it will continue to grow.

The association is now looking for further resources to move along to the next stage of facility development. There's an urgent need, Mr. Speaker, and I'll be asking the Minister later on during question period what the status is of our support. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### **Member's Statement On Medical Travel Costs**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, most people in the NWT are still not aware that their medical insurance does not cover medical travel costs when they're travelling outside of the Northwest Territories. Separate

and additional travel insurance must be purchased to ensure medical travel costs will be recovered, otherwise they will be personally responsible for these costs. Medical travel which originates outside of the Northwest Territories is not covered.

How many NWT residents pack up and head off on a vacation to destinations in or outside of Canada without considering how ruined their holidays would be if they or one of their family fell ill or was involved in an accident? Imagine the compounded stress they would have to return home and receive a bill for any medical transportation associated with that incident.

Also, for example, Mr. Speaker, students who are attending post-secondary institutions would be charged for air and ground ambulance services as their NWT health insurance would not cover these expenses. The cost could be substantial, depending upon the service required and distance involved. Many other residents travel to other jurisdictions for business and vacation and the territorial government's medical travel and extended health benefits policy would have a significant impact upon this major segment of our population as well.

Mr. Speaker, if we cannot pay for our residents' medical travel costs we should at least inform them of this potentially costly service. This would at least reduce the level of anxiety. We need a better communication strategy, Mr. Speaker. Pamphlets at travel agencies, ticket counters, airport gates, I suggest would be a good start. I've noticed numerous places where this type of medical travel insurance can be purchased, including on the front page of Web sites for on-line banking.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps we may also wish to consider a government-funded supplementary insurance plan for those who cannot buy medical travel insurance due to serious pre-existing conditions such as cancer or other debilitating conditions.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Good idea.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I could share many stories of families who have been negatively impacted financially due to unanticipated medical evacuation costs while outside of the jurisdiction in which they are insured. I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services on this matter today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Member's Statement On Deh Cho Bridge Project**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'll to speak about the Deh Cho Bridge project. Like my colleague, Mr. McLeod, and most of my colleagues in the House, I support that project 100 percent. I think it's a great project that's long overdue. People in the North, especially this part of the North, have been waiting for it for a long time.

However, Mr. Speaker, I do have a problem with the method from which we will use to pay for that bridge. I don't believe that tolling trucks that bring supplies to this part of the North is a good way to pay. Mr. Speaker, it's comparable to the one-rate zone that we so almost unanimously shot down in this House. It's almost canonistic to think that people who are living in Yellowknife, people that rely on Yellowknife, communities like Lutselk'e, for example, have to pay for that bridge because of

the increased cost of doing business here when the trucking companies and the people that they're delivering materials for have to pay that extra cost. I think it's high time and I think we have an economy that's robust enough in the Northwest Territories to allow individuals to pay to cross that bridge.

We have two years, Mr. Speaker, to come up with a better method of paying. Each mining company in the Northwest Territories operating would pay an extra \$1 million. It would cost them an extra \$1 million. That's \$1 million each. If we take Diavik, BHP and De Beers, just those three alone, that's \$3 million that would have been going to royalties that will go to the cost of the bridge now. That's \$3 million that other claimant groups such as the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu and pretty soon the Tlicho, Mr. Speaker, they benefit from those royalties because they get 11 percent of the first \$2 million and two percent of the remainder. That's \$30,000 a year per claimant group. That's over \$1 million over 35 years per claimant group. I don't think that's fair to those claimant groups. I think it's fair that everybody who crosses pays. You'd probably pay it off a lot quicker, Mr. Speaker.

I will be asking the Minister some questions later on in the day. Mr. Speaker, in two years, shortly after the ribbon is cut, I'd like to pay \$5 to cross that bridge and I hope to do that as an MLA as well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

#### **Member's Statement On Significant Events In The Nunakput Constituency**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on two events of some significance that took place in Tuktoyaktuk during the month of August of this year. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, graduation ceremonies were held for four students who graduated from Mangilaluk School in Tuktoyaktuk. They were Amanda Nasagaluak, Charlene Steen, Curtis Wolki and Fred Voudrach, Jr. This event was well attended by proud parents and family members, teachers and members of the public. I know my colleagues here in the House join me in wishing these students every success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, another event that took place was the name change for the Tuktoyaktuk airport. The Tuktoyaktuk airport is now known as the James Gruben Airport. The naming of the airport after James Gruben will serve to acknowledge the skills and achievements of the late James Gruben. Mr. Speaker, James was well liked and respected by many. This was reflected by the fact that the air terminal was packed by well over 200 friends and relatives, including Nellie Cournoyean, chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and Freddy Carmichael, a lifelong friend and distinguished bush pilot himself.

Mr. Speaker, James spent many hours operating his bush plane out of the Tuktoyaktuk airport, as well as the Tuktoyaktuk Harbour. He was a highly skilled and trusted bush pilot who many local residents, including myself, had the pleasure of flying with. Mr. Speaker, as you enter the air terminal building in Tuktoyaktuk now you will be greeted by a life-size bronze statue carved to the likeness of James Gruben. There is also a plaque alongside the statue outlining the achievements of this famous young pilot.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Tuktoyaktuk, I wish to thank the Honourable Joe Handley, Minister of Transportation, and his department for their cooperation in allowing this name change to go forward. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Tuktoyaktuk, I wish to invite and welcome all Members of this House to the James Gruben Airport in Tuktoyaktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

#### **ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of a former Member of the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly, Mr. Fred Koe.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in our duties as Ministers and MLAs sometimes we ask different men and women in the Northwest Territories to help us out by sitting on different boards. I'd like to thank them for that. Today I'd like to recognize a board and executive of the NWT Development Corporation, starting with Elizabeth Wyman, she's the chair in Yellowknife; Denise Yuhas, the vice-chair from Fort Smith; Ernest Smith, a director from Rae-Edzo; Danny McNeely, director from Norman Wells; Joyce Stewart, director from Hay River; and Fred Koe, who was recognized already, but he's the president and chief executive officer of the NWT Development Corporation. Thank you and welcome.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize two constituents from Weledeh. First of all, Reanna Erasmus. I invite all of the Members to go and visit the excellent head start program that Reanna runs down in Ndilo. It's one of the best in Canada, in my view. As well, I want to recognize Major Karen Hoeft, a long-time friend and supporter for all the people in the Northwest Territories, in particular the homeless. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure today to recognize in the gallery a very dear friend of mine and, might I also say, my campaign manager, Joy Stewart.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize all the people from the Western Arctic aboriginal

head start program; from the northern secretariat Health Canada, Tracey Cameron; also, running one of the best head start programs in Canada, Joyce Villeneuve, from Fort Providence.

---Laughter

---Applause

Also, another head start program coordinator from Hay River Reserve, Nancy Lafleur. I'd like to welcome them here to the House. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Ernie Smith, band councillor and member of the Business Development Corporation. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Mr. Ed Hunter and Denise Yuhas, as well; constituents of mine and very good people from Fort Smith. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** For situations like this perhaps we should have a written recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a real honour to have a constituent in the gallery. It's not too often we see them here. I'd like to recognize Cathy Nerysoo also with the head start program out of Fort McPherson. Welcome her to the House. Also, I'd like to recognize Mr. Fred Koe, originally from Aklavik. Also, my partner in crime, Mr. Danny McNeely.

---Laughter

Also, someone who was a resident of Fort McPherson many moons ago, Mr. Hunter. Welcome.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Danny McNeely of Fort Good Hope, who's the owner and manager of Sahtu Contracting located in Norman Wells.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to recognize one that has not been mentioned from the head start program, Margery Matheson, who works in Rae-Edzo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's also a great pleasure for me to recognize the people who run our aboriginal head start programs here in the Northwest Territories. They do a great job and I believe there may be two other people here, Mr. Speaker. Irene Gruben and Margery Matheson. I wish to recognize them. I believe they're in the gallery. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize one of my constituents from Paulatuk, Irene Gruben, and welcome her to the gallery.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. At this time I would just like to recognize a young friend, Mr. Patrick Joss of Holman, who unfailingly watches this and the Nunavut Assembly on APTN.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 401-14(6): Community Infrastructure Needs In Rae

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Vince Steen. During my travels with government officials through the community of Gameti, we had the impression that they would return in the summer to give them the answers to the capital projects they asked for. I'd like to ask the Minister if his department is still going to be going to the community to give them the answers for their needs. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

##### Return To Question 401-14(6): Community Infrastructure Needs In Rae

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my officials have been to the community on a number of occasions recently to meet with the municipality on their municipal infrastructure, in particular in relation to water trucks and fire trucks. We had some discussions with them, as well as we reviewed their equipment to see whether or not they could in fact have the repairs done to them that they were concerned about. I believe that there's yet another meeting coming up whereby we will have further discussions with them on this. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.



**Supplementary To Question 401-14(6): Community Infrastructure Needs In Rae**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he could give me the dates of these meetings and will it be in the lifetime of this Assembly or will it be with the next Assembly? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return To Question 401-14(6): Community Infrastructure Needs In Rae**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my officials did have a scheduled meeting with the municipality for October 2<sup>nd</sup>. However, the municipality cancelled the meeting. My department is open to a new date from them. That's what we're waiting for right now. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 401-14(6): Community Infrastructure Needs In Rae**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my statement, sometimes the department makes decisions without telling the communities. I'd like to ask the Minister if his department can just go ahead and purchase the equipment without going back to them? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return To Question 401-14(6): Community Infrastructure Needs In Rae**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is of the opinion that the community has the equipment that is normally supplied to a community of that size. They don't normally supply backup equipment for the communities. However, in the case of Gameti, they just recently took over the municipal services from Public Works and Services, so at this point in time they're just experiencing a lot of the difficulties that Public Works and Services had originally while supplying services to the community through operating the facilities on behalf of the community and the department. We have no plans at this point to bring in more equipment to them, but we would like to meet with them to discuss their plans for maintaining this equipment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Your final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 401-14(6): Community Infrastructure Needs In Rae**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the Minister's department is looking at supporting the community. As we all know, there are no mechanics in some of these small communities and the costs are higher than usual to maintain equipment. I'd like to ask the Minister if his department is willing to budget the communities according to the expenditures that they're forecasting. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return To Question 401-14(6): Community Infrastructure Needs In Rae**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is already funding the municipality for operations and maintenance of the equipment. We've estimated that the amount of money that they're receiving from us right now through the normal funding process is more than what it was costing Public Works and Services to maintain the equipment when they operated it. It will be part of the discussions we will have with the community, the future cost and how we could assist them to have mechanics on staff. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**Question 402-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Funding**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, when I asked if the Government of the Northwest Territories was doing its part to make sure the Giant remediation process qualified for the second year of the contaminated sites accelerated action fund, according to page 2919 in unedited Hansard the Minister said, "I guess the funding is in place there." Mr. Speaker, this is too important an issue for NWT residents to worry about the safety of the water and the lake that feeds the Mackenzie River. Guessing is not good enough. Can the Minister confirm whether or not this government is working to ensure we see some of the money from that fund going to fix the situation at Giant?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The chair is at a loss here to direct the question. However, I will direct the question to the Government House Leader, the honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 402-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Funding**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree it is important that the Government of the Northwest Territories negotiate to make sure that the money is in place for the remediation work that is done. I'm not clear on exactly where those negotiations between RWED and the federal government are at this point. I can assure the Member that RWED has been working long and hard on this particular project. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 402-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Funding**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the people of Yellowknife and my constituents among them want to see action now. The Minister has said that RWED is working hard. I have to say that it appears that the GNWT is dragging its feet and the cleanup is being put off. We've now lost six months of time to get the plan approved and start the cleanup. Why is it taking so long for the Government of the Northwest Territories to review the report that they asked to be done as a second look at deep disposal? Why hasn't it been done already?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Government House Leader, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 402-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Funding**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge the people in environmental protection in RWED have taken a look at the report that was done and with regard to the underground work they have recommended that an alternate be looked at carefully. It's important that this work be done properly. We don't want to face the consequences of our government not having been absolutely sure it picked the right solution before proceeding. While it may be frustrating to see another six months, I think it's important that this be done properly and if the underground work can be done through deep disposal then that's the better way of doing it.

With regard to the overall project, this has been a long-standing debate between RWED and the federal government on whose responsibility it is. Again, we want to be careful with our money that we are not spending money that should rightfully be the responsibility of the federal government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 402-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Funding**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised to hear the Minister talk about deep disposal. RWED asked that a further study be done of that. It was done. The report was released on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and it confirmed that deep disposal will not work. The people in Yellowknife have been surveyed, they've been to public meetings and from that we know that they've had enough of meetings, workshops and studies. They're ready to take the advice of experts.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Really? Hear, hear!

**MR. DENT:** They want the governments to get on with the project. When will this government make a decision and push for action on the cleanup?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** When?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Government House Leader, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 402-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Funding**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that everyone is 100 percent convinced that deep disposal will not work. We do realize that there are some risks in just trying to freeze it in place where it is, and we want to ensure that those risks are assessed carefully. As I said, Mr. Speaker, if this is done wrong it could have very, very drastic repercussions on this area and on the people who live here. So we will be very careful, as far as our government is concerned, and we will move ahead with this when we are sure that the route and the method that we're following is the right one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 402-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Funding**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that the government feels they have more expertise

than what is present on the peer review panel that has looked at the options proposed, because I don't think that's possible. These are qualified people and they've done not just one review, but they've done two and deep disposal has been found to be wanting. So again I'm going to ask, how long are we going to study options that don't make sense?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Government House Leader, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 402-14(6): Giant Mine Remediation Funding**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure of Mr. Dent's opinion on this and so on, but I can tell you there is no 100 percent support for the notion of just freezing the material right where it is. I can tell you that there are people in my constituency, in Dettah and Ndilo, who don't believe in that. I'm not going to question their expertise either, but it is not 100 percent, we want to make sure it's the right answer and that we do this thing properly. So, Mr. Speaker, I respect the peer panel and realize that they're all experts, but I think there are still some outstanding questions that need to be resolved here. It is not 100 percent unanimous that there is only one way to do this and do it properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Question 403-14(6): Housing Programs For Single Parents**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and it's in regard to my Member's statement regarding the plight of single parents, especially single mothers with children who find themselves through separation or divorce that they become the provider for the family and also have to keep the home. One thing that I've found over the last couple of years is that there have been more and more single mothers approaching me on trying to access programs from the Government of the Northwest Territories through the Housing Corporation programs that are out there. In some cases they have been able to access those programs, but later have found that because they couldn't access a contractor to do the project and told that they were going to hold off until the following year, then after the year lapsed they would go back and find out that the dollars are not there. They reapplied and they found that they were not accepted. So I would like to ask the Minister, has anything within the Housing Corporation looked at some sort of a program to assist single mothers to help them through the process, ensuring that these programs that they are eligible for and that they do qualify for are able to conclude them by ensuring that that work is done and that they do the job that's needed?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Return To Question 403-14(6): Housing Programs For Single Parents**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is well aware, the NWT Housing Corporation invested a lot of time doing community visitations the last four years to try to manifest change to best meet the needs of the local residents. We definitely have made a number of improvements in our programming and delivery of services, and we continue to do so. Yes, we recognize there are some hiccups in trying

to address the most recent demands by single mothers who do not need the certain criteria. Certainly we want to address that, and I referred to that in my Minister's statement today. I'm sure that as time progresses we will be able to reconcile some of those questions through our administration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary To Question 403-14(6): Housing Programs For Single Parents**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have come forward to the Minister several times and to people at the regional office to try to find ways or solutions to assist these single mothers to deal with their housing crisis. So I would like to ask the Minister have you directed the department to look at some sort of a strategy or some sort of a scenario to assist with the increased number of applications we are receiving from single mothers and single parents?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 403-14(6): Housing Programs For Single Parents**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've taken a number of steps to try to improve the level of communications between the department and communities. In one community, for instance, we've introduced a liaison program where we fund a community organization or an institution to work more closely with its clients so that we have some kind of rapport with the community. Hopefully that will reconcile some of the problems that are outstanding as of this date. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary To Question 403-14(6): Housing Programs For Single Parents**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest complaints or concerns that we hear is a lack of contractors to do the work within the small, isolated communities, because you either can't bring them in or get the materials in within the time that's set. Could the Minister look at the possibility of ensuring that the contractors that are set with these people are for a two-year period, instead of just set with the year that it's set for? So you can know that you may not be able to acquire a contractor because of work at the regional centres or larger projects. So I'd like to ask the Minister is that something that you can look at; extending those contracts you have with the people that have met the mandate of the program for a longer period of time than strictly that one year?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 403-14(6): Housing Programs For Single Parents**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the program delivery is fairly flexible. I don't see that being a serious problem at this point. We recognize there is a great demand for the construction industry to try to meet the ongoing demands. So certainly I'm prepared to discuss that with our

officials and try to see if we can develop a strategic plan for the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary To Question 403-14(6): Housing Programs For Single Parents**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Minister's statement today with regard to the Housing Corporation and its relationship with CMHC, they have these annual meetings and they get together and look at new programs and try to look at a cooperative arrangement to each side trying to find solutions to the problems. As part of the strategy for affordable housing, can the Minister also look at something in that strategy that deals with the problem of single parents and single mothers who find themselves in a situation of now being home owners, and that we have programs that are structured to that class of people? I would like to ask the Minister, would you consider as part of your strategy a scenario to assist single parents, especially single mothers with the housing needs that they may need through programs?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 403-14(6): Housing Programs For Single Parents**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both from an external and an internal perspective, we have been trying to address many of the questions that the Member raised today. Yes, we have shared with our CMHC colleagues, the reports of trying to find dual solutions to every problem and we will continue to do so. I am prepared to keep the Member apprised of our ongoing discussions as we work towards another agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**Question 404-14(6): NWT Graduation Rates**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about our graduation rates across the Territories. I'm not sure if he has the exact information at his disposal right now, but maybe he could give the House a general sense of the trend over the past three years of graduation rates. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return To Question 404-14(6): NWT Graduation Rates**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have the information and I have further information here, as well, which I could share with the Member after, Mr. Speaker. The trend has been fairly steady. There was a blip in 2001 where there was a substantial increase in graduation. Then all of a sudden, a back to normal level for 2002. Of course, that's the latest statistics we have, Mr. Speaker. But it looks like we're still on track with our graduation rates overall, except for that one year blip, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 404-14(6): NWT Graduation Rates**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So has the Minister ascertained why we saw this blip, because we know that the population of 18 year olds was in fact lower for that year? So it seems amazing that we've got this jump. Can the Minister speak to that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 404-14(6): NWT Graduation Rates**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we did do some initial checking and there was a higher than normal graduation rate in the South Slave, in Fort Smith and Hay River, I believe. That caused the blip, but it's back to normal. It's somewhat related to enrolment figures, as well, Mr. Speaker. I should mention that the graduation rates in smaller communities is increasing and for aboriginal students is increasing, while the graduation rate for non-aboriginal students is decreasing somewhat. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 404-14(6): NWT Graduation Rates**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've spoken with a number of constituents who have raised concerns about what they see as a watering down of the academic requirements for graduation. Can the Minister let us know if in fact we have less than the academic requirements for graduation? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 404-14(6): NWT Graduation Rates**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, it has not been watered down by any means and that's my current knowledge. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 404-14(6): NWT Graduation Rates**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. Maybe I should ask this. Would the Minister acknowledge that just because someone has graduated from our high school system now, we've gotten rid of this concept of matriculation, that that does not necessarily mean that they'll be qualified to enter university? They will not necessarily have the core courses necessary for going on to an academic program at a university. Isn't that correct? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 404-14(6): NWT Graduation Rates**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The graduation is based on the amount of courses that the

individual takes, and they have to write examinations and we follow the Alberta process of examinations. Just on that, Mr. Speaker, I should mention that our outlook is that in 2003 we should continue to see an increase in graduation rates in smaller communities, remain stable in the regional centres, but continue to decrease in Yellowknife. That seems to be where the trend is, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**Question 405-14(6): Addressing Special Needs In NWT Classrooms**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in the area of my Member's statement. I would like to know from the Minister what his department has done in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Services to try and address the growing concerns around the special needs in the classrooms across the North. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return To Question 405-14(6): Addressing Special Needs In NWT Classrooms**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our efforts have been on two fronts. One was to reduce the PTR, as the Member knows, and the other is in special needs. We increased funding substantially for schools in that area, from eight percent to 15 percent, Mr. Speaker, to assist students.

Where our collaboration has been very extensive, Mr. Speaker, is in the early childhood development area, prior to entering school. We feel that's the place that we can make a significant impact for students; not to ignore the ones that are there now -- I understand what the Member means by that -- but we have, as I said, increased funding to that so that students can get some extra help, Mr. Speaker. But, as I say, our collaboration is very strong on the early childhood area so that we get children ready for school. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 405-14(6): Addressing Special Needs In NWT Classrooms**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work is very important in the area of early childhood development, and critical. But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, when numbers do come across our desk and state quite clearly we have some concerns with those just entering into the system. Is there any ongoing work between the Department of Health and Social Services and his department on how to deal with this? Those are the children that will go through the system and will continue to need support if we don't catch them early. So has there been any initiative between the two to try and work together to come up with something that might be more successful? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 405-14(6): Addressing Special Needs In NWT Classrooms**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the working level on each district, I'm not sure what kind of collaboration is taking place. I know that, as I mentioned, strong on the early childhood. I would have to check to see what is taking place on the collaboration with Health and Social Services in the area of school enrollments. The Member spoke earlier about speech therapists and so forth. Those are the kinds of areas that we are very concerned about, but there's also a dearth in the availability of those types of individuals. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 405-14(6): Addressing Special Needs In NWT Classrooms**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an issue that has been ongoing for some time in a number of communities, and specifically in mine as well, when I know that, for example, parents would go to the school and request a speech therapist because they've been told that their children need that help and the schools would say sorry, we don't have funding for that, go to the Department of Health and Social Services, and there seems to be little collaboration between the two. So will there be some directive or initiative sent down, not only at headquarters -- and I think that's where it needs to start -- but will there be a collaborative approach to try and deal with this situation? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 405-14(6): Addressing Special Needs In NWT Classrooms**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to check into this, Mr. Speaker, to see what we can do in terms of further collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services in many areas, because it's not just in speech therapy it's also school psychologists and so forth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 405-14(6): Addressing Special Needs In NWT Classrooms**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister also inform us in the area of special needs, can district education councils or district education authorities have any further assistance than the formula funding that's handed down now, if they do in fact find that they have a high need in their classrooms? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 405-14(6): Addressing Special Needs In NWT Classrooms**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The DEC's are restricted, Mr. Speaker. Other than we have initiated a school improvement project for student success, and we're doing this on a pilot basis in seven different districts. Each one chose a

school to do a specific project, which could be an area that we could look at for next year to see if we can expand and that was our intention. As we see successes happening, then we can expand the student success projects. They're small funded projects, but they're specifically geared to testing projects to see if they are successful, and we want to take our best examples and repeat that in other areas, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Question 406-14(6): Dismissal Of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Member**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand from some information that I got just a few minutes ago, that there has been some fairly dramatic action over at the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. A prominent member has been, apparently, dismissed from his duties by federal Minister, Mr. Nault. As a consequence, there is no quorum on this board. This is a critical board to the North and development approvals, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to address a question to the Premier. In partnership with the federal government, can he confirm that this action has been happening and what is the status of development permits now under review at this board? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Return To Question 406-14(6): Dismissal Of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Member**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are concerned with the situation that seems to be arising with the board and the federal Minister. I understand the board had also passed a motion of non-confidence in their chair. This is a concern because the board is dealing with some very, very important projects, and at a time when we need the board to appear independent without suffering interference from any political office, and we have asked for a full briefing. Both Jim Antoine, myself and our officials are preparing that for us so we can deal with it as quickly as possible. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 406-14(6): Dismissal Of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Member**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier outline for us the nature of the relationship that the government has with Northern Affairs on this board? Actions of this nature, as the Premier has indicated, are quite significant for us. Just what is the obligation of the Minister to let us know what is going on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Further Return To Question 406-14(6): Dismissal Of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Member**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a board that also ties into the Gwich'in claim and the Sahtu claim. It is a partnership between the different

groups, including the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories, as well as the Sahtu and Gwich'in. So there is a very high expectation for cooperation, partnership and consultation in the way this board operates in the terms of reference it has, especially the need for arm's length, independent ability to operate and carry out their duties as all parties expect them to. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Question 407-14(6): Public Communication Of Medical Travel Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The matter of medical travel outside of the Northwest Territories not being covered has been brought up to me again by a constituent recently. When a resident of Hay River had a serious illness and a very poor prognosis, naturally she wanted to make another trip to where she was originally from in Canada, in the east. While she was there, she became ill and had to be transported to a hospital with specialized services in a large centre. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this constituent unexpectedly passed away while she was there. Now her family is back in Hay River and they're not only grieving her loss, but they're also hit with the medical travel bills.

Mr. Speaker, I know of many more such incidents. I'd like to know what does the Department of Health and Social Services do to inform NWT residents of these potential costs and the fact that medical travel is not covered if it does not originate in the NWT. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 407-14(6): Public Communication Of Medical Travel Policy**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a website that lays out the concerns and cautions people travelling outside of the NWT that they should have supplementary health coverage. As well, we have pamphlets in the health centres, plus I understand all our travel agencies have agreed to work with the department and authorities to ensure that travelers are aware of health insurance requirements when they travel outside of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do you have a supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen?

**Supplementary To Question 407-14(6): Public Communication Of Medical Travel Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister has he ever contemplated putting some kind of a flyer in with the health care cards when they go out for renewal? This would definitely hit every person in the Northwest Territories who is covered by NWT health insurance. Has he ever contemplated that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 407-14(6): Public Communication Of Medical Travel Policy**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I haven't, but it is a good suggestion and I'll take it under consideration with the staff.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 407-14(6): Public Communication Of Medical Travel Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll only ask one more supplementary because it sounds like the Minister needs some medical attention himself.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, in the incident of the constituent that I referred to who was already ill before she wanted to take this trip, it would have been difficult in this instance for her to go and get medical travel insurance because knowing that she already had a very serious illness. So on a compassionate basis, is there any way the Department of Health and Social Services could have a group insurance policy that could be assessed by people who are not eligible for medical travel insurance through the normal channels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 407-14(6): Public Communication Of Medical Travel Policy**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's another suggestion that we'll take into consideration as we review the Hansard and look at the issues raised by my colleagues.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**Question 408-14(6): Consultation On Proposed Deh Cho Bridge Toll**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier in a Member's statement about my support for the Deh Cho Bridge project and questioning on the method of payment. The Minister has indicated to me that the trucks that are carrying loads into Yellowknife and points north would be paying \$5 to \$6 per tonne on loads only. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister if his department has consulted with communities outside of Yellowknife that rely on Yellowknife as a point of resupply for their communities on the possible cost increase to those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 408-14(6): Consultation On Proposed Deh Cho Bridge Toll**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, yes, the department has had some consultation with the communities that rely on Yellowknife, particularly the communities in the North Slave area. I don't know if they went to Lutselk'e or not. That would

be the only other community where the people do have some reliance on goods from Yellowknife. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary To Question 408-14(6): Consultation On Proposed Deh Cho Bridge Toll**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again decisions have been made without full consultation obviously. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned in my opening remarks as well that land claims organizations have agreed to final agreements with the federal and territorial government to get a percentage of royalties. Recognizing that it's going to cost each mining company, just to use the companies that are operating in my constituency for an example, De Beers, BHP and Diavik, over \$1 million a year; \$35,000 million each over the 35 year period. Each land group gets 11 percent of the first \$2 million and two percent of the remaining royalties. That \$105 million that would have gone to royalties will go to the Deh Cho Bridge. Has the Minister consulted with the land claims groups, informing that they will probably lose about \$2 million a piece over the next 35 years, and that they will be paying for the bridge, as well? Has the Minister informed them of this royalty regime and how the cost of the bridge might affect that royalty regime? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 408-14(6): Consultation On Proposed Deh Cho Bridge Toll**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, no one has ever presented that argument to us before so it's a new one. Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to remind the Member, as well, that the department did a lot of consultation as we prepared this schedule. This has gone through the standing committee. I know the governance and economic development committee did have public hearings in at least Fort Providence, Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife. I'm not sure what other communities that committee would have gone to. We had standing committee discussion on it. We passed the Deh Cho Bridge Act, so there has been a lot of consultation on it, but we now have legislation in place which lays out how the costs of the bridge will be covered through a toll mechanism. So I appreciate there may be other ways of doing it that we may want to look at in the future, but we did just pass legislation in June outlining this process. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary To Question 408-14(6): Consultation On Proposed Deh Cho Bridge Toll**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, legislation can be changed. Legislation can be changed to address the shortcomings. The shortcoming here, obviously, Mr. Speaker, is a lack of consultation and people not knowing that they will be paying for the bridge. I think we live in an economy of the day that individuals could pay at least \$5 to cross the bridge using any kind of motorized vehicle. So I would like to ask the Minister if he would consult with the land claims organizations and Lutsel'e to see if they're willing to pay for the bridge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 408-14(6): Consultation On Proposed Deh Cho Bridge Toll**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is right, even though we have legislation we still have an obligation to continue to consult. Yes, I'll raise this with the land claims organizations and see if they have concerns or if they have other alternatives they'd like to look at. But in the meantime, we will keep moving along on this one. I should point out, Mr. Speaker, that some of the businesses, in Yellowknife at least, who did an analysis of this, show that there's actually a savings for individual consumers. I believe it was the Yellowknife Co-op that did an assessment and said that this will result in a lower cost to them in providing groceries and other supplies to people who shop there, because they no longer have that period of two months, counting the winter and the spring breakups, where they've had to either bring in supplies early or have them flown over. If I remember correctly, there's a small increase in the North Slave communities, but it was a very, very small one, again because of the certainty of being able to bring products to this area any time they choose.

In terms of the impact on land claims organizations, I will check with them on that. Certainly the mining companies and industry have also given me their views already. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary To Question 408-14(6): Consultation On Proposed Deh Cho Bridge Toll**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there may be a small savings to consumers in Yellowknife, but there is an increased cost to people outside of Yellowknife who rely on Yellowknife for resupply. It makes sense that there will be a small savings, but the savings will still be there if individuals pay to cross the bridge. It doesn't matter who pays. The method that we're using now penalizes people who live outside of Yellowknife who depend on resupply, and the mining companies, our biggest corporate citizens, that do a lot of volunteering and provide donations to communities will also pay. So I'd like to ask the Minister if his department could undertake a process to compare the method of paying for the bridge tolling trucks versus tolling every motorized vehicle that crosses the bridge. Which one will pay off the bridge quicker and which one would have the least adverse impact on the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 408-14(6): Consultation On Proposed Deh Cho Bridge Toll**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Transportation has looked at the alternatives for financing the bridge. Our assessment was that given the traffic loads we have right now into the North Slave area and given the cost of either buying automatic equipment or having people who would be there to collect the tolls, would probably cost as much as we would take in in revenue if we were to look at something like \$5 per vehicle. If you go much higher than that, Mr. Speaker, then I think people would react negatively to paying a toll. But we don't have enough traffic at this point to

make it worthwhile to buy the equipment or having people sitting there collecting the money. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**Question 409-14(6): Maximizing The Benefits Of Resource Development**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, as we go forward into what appears to be a very bright future for the North and we continue to develop our resources, we must do everything in our power to make sure that long-term benefits are realized for Northerners, including jobs and sustainable businesses. We must always be vigilant to ensure that industry obtains their goods and services from northern sources wherever possible. Will the Minister agree that without the direct influence of this government towards benefits currently occurring from the diamond industry to the North would not have been possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Return To Question 409-14(6): Maximizing The Benefits Of Resource Development**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, about 10 years ago or so when the diamond industry was beginning to happen here in the Northwest Territories, our government of the day put a lot of effort into making sure that we have a good socio-economic agreement with the mining companies that will allow for job creation, the different positions, make sure that northern workers are employed at the mine, as well as business opportunities. To date, the first mine which is BHP Billiton now, have made a really high benchmark for other mines, not only in the North, but in Canada and around the world, in how to utilize the local people as well as local business. Yes, through our government we've made a lot of effort to make that happen. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary To Question 409-14(6): Maximizing The Benefits Of Resource Development**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister looked into the benefits that could be realized from projects such as the construction of bridges and the pipe coating facilities here in the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 409-14(6): Maximizing The Benefits Of Resource Development**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have done work for the past two years on the Mackenzie Valley pipeline preparation. We have been working in cooperation with DIAND's pipeline readiness office on strategies for impact management, and we're looking at the potential impacts from the increased oil and gas activities in the North. The objective here is, again similar to the mining

industry where we have been successful, is trying to ensure that we have long-term benefits to NWT businesses. Of course, we're looking at all the possibilities, including preparation of the pipes and so forth. Those are all possibilities that could evolve out of a good socio-economic agreement with the pipeline company and with the producers. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey,

**Supplementary To Question 409-14(6): Maximizing The Benefits Of Resource Development**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister please indicate for this House if he or his department have any direct input into what is included in the socio-economic impact benefit agreement currently in place to deal with resource development in the North?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 409-14(6): Maximizing The Benefits Of Resource Development**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the socio-economic provisions and agreements that we have with the two existing diamond mines, and we're currently negotiating another socio-economic agreement with the third diamond mine, which is De Beers at Snap Lake. We're in the process of doing that. We have been coordinating and collaborating with the producer groups to ensure that we have a socio-economic agreement with the producer groups, as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Antoine. Your final supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary To Question 409-14(6): Maximizing The Benefits Of Resource Development**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister commit to reviewing all possible options for the inclusion of manufacturing of bridges and pipe coating facilities be included in our socio-economic impact benefit agreement for the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 409-14(6): Maximizing The Benefits Of Resource Development**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the socio-economic agreement would focus on the long-term benefits that may accrue to people in the North, in terms of jobs and training and business opportunities. As a result of a socio-economic agreement, specific projects like a pipe coating facility would be as a result of negotiating socio-economic agreements. Yes, we will try to do whatever we can to make sure that the pursuit of a pipe coating business evolves out of a socio-economic agreement. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.



**Question 410-14(6): Temporary Retention Of Miramar Con Mine Employees**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is in regard to the statement I made earlier today and, coincidentally, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment made a statement about the work that the GNWT has been doing with respect to laid-off Con Mine workers. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that a lot of good work has been done and the government deserves our thanks for that. I do want to pursue one little aspect of it, and that has to do with the possibility of employing the laid-off workers for cleaning up and reclamation of the Con Mine site, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the question is there are many who might not be able to get a job. They have a certain skill set that could be used to cleanup the Con Mine site, and that could give them transition work until they find some other area of work. So may I asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment whether in the Minister's discussions to deal with this issue if any thought has been given to the possibility of using these employees to work at the site until they obtain further work? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return To Question 410-14(6): Temporary Retention Of Miramar Con Mine Employees**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the company has transferred a number of employees to the Giant Mine operation, and I'm not sure what the company's plans are with respect to the reclamation of the site and whether company employees are there for the long term, for the full reclamation project. I understand that some are working on some of the initial work that needs to be done. We can certainly pursue that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 410-14(6): Temporary Retention Of Miramar Con Mine Employees**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Minister is aware of the concerns of some of these laid-off miners that the mine site will be closed down and the mine flooded, possibly by the end of the year. They feel very strongly that there's a lot of work that can be done there, and that current employees could be given that job so that for some of them they could extend their pension plan and have some kind of transition work until they find something else that's more permanent. So may I ask the Minister to look into this and see what this government can do to work with the company to make it possible for the current workers to have a job there? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 410-14(6): Temporary Retention Of Miramar Con Mine Employees**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a good question, Mr. Speaker. Naturally we want to ensure that we maximize, to the best possibilities, all of the employees that are at Con at the moment who have been employed by Miramar, to ensure that they are able to maximize their pensions and so forth. There's also a consultant who has been hired; David Milne who has worked, I understand, previously with Miramar, to assist workers on a transition plan. We can certainly enter

into some questions and discussions with Miramar on this, Mr. Speaker, to find out what the plans are, what the timeframe is and how the employees can be involved. Also I'm sure that the union itself is naturally interested in this area, so we'll touch base with the various organizations in this.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 410-14(6): Temporary Retention Of Miramar Con Mine Employees**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I take that to be a commitment from the Minister to engage in discussions with the company and any other interested parties, including the union, to see how this can be done and have the Minister to at least communicate to the rest of the Yellowknife MLAs in writing about what the outcome of that sort of engagement is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 410-14(6): Temporary Retention Of Miramar Con Mine Employees**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I say, Mr. Speaker, we first have to update ourselves on what action has been taken, what the union has entered into discussions here with the corporation itself and what the plans of the corporation are; timeframe and so forth. We can provide an update to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 410-14(6): Temporary Retention Of Miramar Con Mine Employees**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that search and work that the Minister has committed to do, may I ask the Minister to also look into the companies and any other involved parties in making this process as public as possible; everything that has to do with closing and cleaning up the Con Mine be done in a public way? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 410-14(6): Temporary Retention Of Miramar Con Mine Employees**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a territorial government, our Ministers have been coordinated through the Premier who has been chairing several meetings. We've had Mr. Dent as part of our committee, and we've involved the mayor from time to time, and included the union and company officials. We are in touch with those officials, Mr. Speaker, and we'll do our best to keep everyone informed publicly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**Question 411-14(6): Approval For Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are again for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in follow up to questions on the arsenic

situation at Giant. I think as I've made very clear, people are concerned about the lack of activity in terms of getting the process started, and are very interested in knowing what the timetable is. The Minister yesterday talked about the plan for dealing with the arsenic to have to go through an assessment. Could he outline the steps and the timetable for getting approval for the project, and especially could he outline if part of the requirement is a full-blown environment assessment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Return To Question 411-14(6): Approval For Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the process is it is a DIAND process. The information we have is once DIAND has decided to submit a recommendation on the management of the arsenic stored underground at Giant to the federal senior management, I understand that their timetable is that they plan to do that in the fall of 2003. So we're in that area, probably later this month or November we would anticipate that. So we expect that the recommended management option will probably be the frozen block disposal method. We as a government can only advise, but this is what we anticipate will happen. Any final management alternative must effectively isolate the arsenic from people and the environment, so of course we are all supportive of that. My understanding is that once that happens, once DIAND has decided to take a course of action, then a project description would be submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. The information that we have is that this is the course of action that has been taken. It would probably involve an environmental assessment and a review process would probably trigger. So that would be some time, and we know how these processes have been proceeding in all these different areas. The arsenic stored underground at Giant is a huge concern to everybody, including people down the valley because that's where the river flows. So of course we are very concerned about it, and the submission that land and water board will receive, it will probably take some time to make sure that all the different stakeholders will have input into that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 411-14(6): Approval For Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicates that he thinks a full environmental assessment would likely be required of the project, once that project description is filed. As I understand it, an EA can be required by stakeholders requesting that that happen. Is it this government's position that a full-blown EA is necessary? Will this government be triggering the environmental assessment?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 411-14(6): Approval For Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, it's not the intention of our government to trigger any environmental assessment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 411-14(6): Approval For Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that answered my first question if the Minister could give an outline of what he understands the timetable to be; he indicated it would be a fair while, he thought. Does he have an estimate of what this government expects to be the start date for the cleanup of the Giant site?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 411-14(6): Approval For Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot provide the estimate of when we think the startup of the clean-up at Giant Mine is going to be. The information that we have is it will have to be after the regulatory process is completed. That's my understanding at this point in time. I could only speculate on how long that process is going to be at this point. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 411-14(6): Approval For Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, do we have to wait until the final plan is filed before we can start on the surface reclamation? Is there any reason not to start that immediately?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 411-14(6): Approval For Giant Mine Remediation Project**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, I will have to check on that, but the main concern is the arsenic trioxide that is underground. That is where the big price tag is going to be for the federal government to come up and how they are going to put that together. As for the surface cleanup, it's also a huge concern and I cannot really answer the Member's question and I have to take it as notice and get back to him as soon as possible. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. That part of the question was taken as notice. The time for question period has expired. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS****Written Question 14-14(6): Student Appeal Process At Aurora College**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It's concerning the student appeal board process at Aurora College.

1. Would the Minister act immediately to initiate the change to the composition of Aurora College student appeal boards, so they are independent and work at arm's length from the Aurora College system.
2. Would the Minister ensure that there is a student representative on all appeal boards at Aurora College?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I don't have a copy of the report I am supposed to give right now. I will have to come back to it later. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS****Tabled Document 103-14(6): Northwest Territories Search And Rescue Prevention Strategic Plan**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Search and Rescue Prevention Strategic Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 12.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Dent, please report.

**REVERT TO ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS****Bill 31: An Act To Amend The Official Languages Act, No. 3**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has reviewed Bill 31, an Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 3, and wishes to report that Bill 31 is now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule

70(5) and have Bill 31 ordered into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive the Rule 70 and have Bill 31 ordered into Committee of the Whole for today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, so Bill 31 will be ordered into Committee of the Whole for today. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act; Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act; Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act; Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2003-2004; Committee Report 18-14(6), Report on the Review of Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act, Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act, and Bill 26, Youth Justice Act; Committee Report 19-14(6), Report on the Review of Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act, and Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act; and Minister's Statement 89-14(6), Infrastructure Canada Commits \$65 Million to NWT Resource Highways, with Mr. Lafferty in the chair.

**ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** I will call the committee to order. We have a number of items for Committee of the Whole. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend committee continue its consideration of Bill 32 and following that, we move to consider Bill 22, followed by Bill 24 and then Bill 25 and then perhaps Bill 31. We will have to consider concurrently Committee Report 18-14(6) and Committee Report 19-14(6) as we look at some of those bills.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. At this time, we will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** I will call the committee back to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** There's a motion to report progress on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report progress and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. May I have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act; Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act; Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act; Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 3; Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2003-2004; Committee Report 18-14(6), Report on the Review of Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act, Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act, and Bill 26, Youth Justice Act; Committee Report 19-14(6), Report on the Review of Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act, and Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act; and Minister's Statement 89-14(6), Infrastructure Canada Commits \$65 Million to NWT Resource Highways. By the authority given the Speaker by Motion 4-14(6), Committee of the Whole is authorized to sit beyond the time of adjournment until committee is prepared to report, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

---Applause

#### REVERT TO ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I will call the Committee of the Whole to order. We have several items to deal with. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that the committee continue consideration first of Bill 32, followed by Bill 22 and Committee Report 19-14(6) and then Bill 24 and Committee Report 18-14(6), followed by Bill 25 and then perhaps Bill 31.

#### Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2002-2003

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree? We will continue on with Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2002-2003 with Minister Handley. Would you like to bring in any witnesses, Mr. Handley?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree the Minister bring in his witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort in the witnesses.

Mr. Minister, for the record, would you please introduce your witness?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, with me is Lew Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

#### Detail

#### Department Of Health And Social Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Welcome, witness. When we adjourned yesterday, we were dealing with Health and Social Services, operations expense, ministry and corporate services, not previously authorized, \$325,000. That was agreed.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Program support, not previously authorized, \$1.076 million. At the time, I had Mr. Braden asking a question, so I will allow you your 10 minutes. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe when the clock ran out on us, I was asking if, through the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Health and Social Services was explaining to committee what an item calling for some AV equipment, laptops, training for a vital statistics project. The Minister, if I recall, had explained that our statistical database and process needs a big tune-up and this was equipment deemed necessary to retrain our people and improve our database. To go from that point, Mr. Chairman, does this mean the NWT is going to be getting into the era of electronic data for our medical records? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will refer that to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a national initiative that's looking at health records and systems. We are involved at that table. That is some way down the road. It's a very complex issue dealing with confidentiality, amongst other things. The systems we have right now are going to allow us to move away from hard copy and allow our own internal pieces of the system, components of the system, to talk to each other and to share information and be able to give us technology to respond in an effective way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I would just remind Members, we are on page 9 of the bill under Health and Social Services program delivery support. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The supp notes indicate because of some bookkeeping and it looks to me like a transfer from a capital expenditure to an O and M expenditure, that is the reason for this showing up here. I guess my question is more back to the Minister of Finance, what is the explanation here for this shift in allocation? It's a fair amount of money, \$250,000. Could we get an explanation for that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, this allocation was originally budgeted as capital investment appropriation, but when they did an assessment of what the equipment was, because it was under \$50,000 for any of the equipment, it's operations expenditures. So this is just a transfer from capital to operations. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is \$250,000 worth of hardware and software. It would seem to be an extraordinary expenditure, especially as it is coming up through a supp. How is it then that we are dealing with this in this format as a supplementary, Mr. Chairman, with expenditures of this size, I would really like to anticipate that they are in business plans and are part of our normal annual budgeting cycle. Why are we dealing with such a large amount of money now in a supp? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will have Mr. Voytilla explain the reason for the transfer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Voytilla.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Initially, all these projects were all included in the business plans and were reviewed through the normal process. For example, in the vital statistics information system, the total budget for the project was \$150,000. As they worked through the project over the course of the year, they determined that there was an element that required the purchase of equipment. Because that equipment was \$150,000 per unit, it was designated to be O and M, so we had to shift the money from capital to O and M. There was \$35,000, for example, on the vital stats information system. There is still \$150,000 in that system in capital where it belongs. So it's as we worked through the project, the project becomes more defined and if there is capital equipment required, it really depends on the price of that equipment, whether it's O and M or capital. So it's really hard to determine this right at the beginning of the year when we are doing business plans up.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Okay. With the time I have left, Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to this vital statistics training project. How many people are we anticipating will be trained with this new equipment and this new process? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these training units will be used for all the upgrades that are going to be done by vital statistics, as well as we will be working with the health centres and hospitals, so there are health information systems, there's vital statistics, hospital schedules and we would be able to use these systems or these training needs to go to the various authorities to work with them on the training on the systems that have been upgraded and the changes that have been made. So immediately would be the Inuvik office with vital stats, but the intent is to be able to use this equipment for all the training required for the system upgrades.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the same line of questioning, can the Minister inform us as to where this training will take place and where will this equipment be put? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, a lot of the initial training will take place up in the

Inuvik office but the system will, as well, be used out in the other hospitals. Part of the money is to replace all the computers in the Inuvik office to upgrade from Windows 95 to 98, which is about 25 computers worth; about \$150,000. The \$25,000 is for the portable training unit and that will be based out of Inuvik and then moved to where it is needed for training.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister stated they were going to upgrade computers from the Windows 95 platform to the 98. Why wouldn't we be going to XP or something like that that would be matching today's date? Are we not already going from an ancient to a prehistoric or something like that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent is to upgrade from Windows 95 and 98 to territorial service centre standards, which I assume would be the latest and greatest.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$1.076. Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$5.555 million. Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have some questions on the \$2.567 million to provide funding for the additional costs associated with the settlement of the agreement with the specialists' positions. It seems like a huge amount of money and I know that this issue has been before in the House, especially in our last session, quite controversial. I guess I have some concerns in this area a lot because shortly after the positions got this huge increase, people in Hay River were being put on a waiting list because there were no surgeons available here in Yellowknife. I don't know if everybody went on holidays or what happened, but there was one surgeon available to service the whole of the Northwest Territories. There were people being put on a list that were sitting at home in pain because there were no surgeons available. Could I ask the Minister how many specialists received an increase out of this amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I believe it is 13 but if I am wrong I will ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, but I believe it is 13 specialists.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I think the Finance Minister has the correct number.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, so if there are only 13 specialists that received increases out of this amount, did everyone receive the same amount or what was the lowest amount that was received by a physician and what was the most?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, on average the increase was 38 percent, but with compensation the base pay increased

by 8.16 percent to 21 percent over a two-year period depending on which pay band the physicians fell into. So there was a difference depending on pay bands. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that when we throw percentages, I guess that could be a little bit deceiving, but what is the average salary of these specialists? Do we know what the average salary is? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the base salary itself ranges from about \$237,000 at step one and at the third step the high would be a little less than \$291,000, now that is the base salary. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the base salary of \$291,000 or \$237,000 at step one, is this before the increase or is this after the increase?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the amount I gave you for base salary was after the increases and, Mr. Chairman, it may be that the Member is thinking of the total package because this negotiated settlement included more than base pay. It included other allowances and compensation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of those other items that would come under that benefit package, is any of this money identified in here, did any of that money go towards over and above the base salary?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the negotiated settlement includes the base salary and the amount that we have here includes that. In addition to that, the doctors also, specialists, got a bonus, they got on-call allowances, they got continuing medical education provisions, northern allowance, retention bonus, there are a number of other pieces in here, Mr. Chairman. All of the compensation negotiated with the specialists is included in this amount of money here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't know if it is possible to get a breakdown of what the actual salaries are or if that is confidential information. If it is not I would certainly like to get it, but it seems like a fairly good salary for a specialist. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, I know that specialists in the South have an awful lot of overhead in a lot of cases in their practice. What types of overheads do the specialists have in the Northwest Territories for them to practice here?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the doctors who are on salary would not have overhead expenses, as would doctors on a clinical service agreement. All of these individuals who are on salary would basically have no overhead. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Delorey:

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I didn't get an answer to my first question about the salaries. If we do have a breakdown of the salaries that are being paid to specialists now, and the other thing I would like to put on the record is when are we scheduled or due to start negotiating with these same specialists again?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Minister, I believe there are two questions here.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I don't think there is any difficulty in giving the salary ranges by pay range, as well as the detail on the bonus so it would be based on the ranges. This wouldn't be individual doctor's packages, but I don't see a problem in giving that. The current agreement that has just recently been negotiated ends on March 31, 2004, and I expect that we will begin negotiating with the specialists again for their new contract within the next couple of months, January, February, somewhere in there. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the same line of questioning, how do I become a specialist?

---Laughter

Now the Minister is using a number of different areas. He has talked about pay ranges and so on and stated that that didn't include the bonuses and so on. Looking at these initial figures, when you just take out the number of specialists being 13 and divide it by the amount there, the salary ranges you gave from \$237,000 to \$291,000, we are almost just taking up this price. So is the Minister stating that an equivalent amount is in bonuses, from what the salary ranges would be or is that retro pay in there? Could we get that information?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, a couple of things. First of all, there is a fairly healthy benefit package as well as the salary. So the average total compensation if you take everything including one-time signing bonuses, when you take that all together it amounts to about \$435,000 per physician. I might also point out, Mr. Chairman, that this amount of money in here is for more than just the 13 because it does include all money for all of the positions we have in the budget.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that information. Now the average total compensation being \$435,000, and he just also stated that the total amount that is being called for in the supp includes all of the positions. Can he give us further detail, because initially he told us there were 13? Are there potentially more positions than 13 being allocated for?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will double check on the figure of 13 to make sure that that is accurate, but there are more positions than the 13 because this money is for all the positions Health had in their budget and some of those at the time would have been vacant and they anticipated, of course, that they would be filled. The exact status of that today, I don't have numbers on that, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that when this was being discussed, as Mr. Delorey stated the controversy around it, but I would like to know, we've talked about the increases as necessary to help attract doctors to the North. Can the Minister inform us if in fact we have gotten any new specialists in the Northwest Territories since this agreement was signed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know the detail about how many doctors have been hired recently. The Minister of Health and Social Services just left the room temporarily and I was going to refer it to him. Mr. Chairman, I don't know if we can come back to that question when he is back in the room, but I don't have that detail here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too have questions, but more directly in the area of health. Without having the Minister here, is there a possibility of standing down this section until the Minister is here? I was going to ask questions around a similar line of questioning but I also have questions about the five mental health worker positions, two in Inuvik, one in the Dogrib region, one in the Deh Cho and one in Yellowknife. I was going to ask the question about the two in the Inuvik region. I have received a letter from the Minister that those positions were supposed to be advertised. I am just wondering, did they have any idea of where those positions are going to be located? Is it going to be in Inuvik itself or will it be in the communities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, one of those positions is in Inuvik, and the other one is in Holman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I too have a lot of concerns about the \$2.567 million in regard to the specialists' payout, which as we can see it is over \$400,000, rough calculation, per specialist, but yet we continue to see people being medevaced from Inuvik to Edmonton and bypassing Yellowknife altogether, and that is where the majority of the specialists are. I'd like to ask the Minister, have you done a rough estimate, have we seen a decrease in medevac travel using southern facilities versus using the Stanton Hospital?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I'll refer that to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that specific information. We do track our

medevac travel, we have a number of vacancies in the specialists department, but I don't have that level of detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we have any idea if we have seen a decrease in medevacs to Edmonton since we settled with the specialists to the tune of \$2.5 million?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, during the period of the latter part of the negotiations, there was some movement of patients to Edmonton because of the uncertainty. Since that time that issue has rectified itself. We do track and I can commit to getting information that will show the number of medevac travel that we have from Inuvik to Yellowknife, Yellowknife to the South, but I don't have that at my fingertips. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to ask the Minister if he also has tracked the level of service. Have we seen an improvement in service or a decline in service in regard to the specialists who are dealing with them? Have we seen a shortage of waiting less for people who want that service? So have we seen an improvement in service considering we made a major cash contribution to settle this thing? I'd like to know have we seen any improvements in the service?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there were three new positions added last winter to the overall complement of specialists, but this particular negotiation was to better compensate them for the work they are now doing. There has been no huge volume increase tied into this agreement so we are paying them for the work that they have been doing in a very competitive market and this was the negotiated settlement. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the Minister if we have any statistics that we can show exactly on the number of patients that have seen these specialists and have a cost breakdown on what it is costing based on a cost per patient?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, I don't have that level of detail available, but we can commit to provide the information we have in regard to specialists' workloads and volumes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Just getting back to my area of questioning about the five mental health workers, I see you are posting two new positions in the Inuvik region. I'd just like to ask the

Minister if those positions will be advertised in the region or is this simply going to be done through headquarters?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intent is for the authorities across the territory to deal with the majority of their staffing at the regional level so that those positions will be staffed out of Inuvik.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I'd like to ask the Minister, how soon can these positions be filled?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, the funds are available. My understanding is with the mental health positions, for this year there is one for Inuvik, one for Holman, that they just have to do the staffing and make sure whatever changes were required for office space are made.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Just a question on other priorities, \$800,000. Could we get an idea of what that \$800,000 is for? Could you give us a breakdown?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the \$800,000 is money that is to be allocated to each of the regions, to the eight regional boards at \$100,000 each. It is earmarked for primary care and exactly how it is to be used is up to each of the regional boards, but clearly it has to be for primary care, for direct care. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Can the Minister tell us if any of this money will be spent in the communities, out of the \$100,000 per region or will it simply stay at the regional centres?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I expect that it will be allocated out to the communities. Each of the boards and the department will have to develop a plan before the money is expended and that would be approved through the department, but it is meant for small local initiatives and I don't think we will see it used up only in the headquarters. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Just on the palliative care program, I have raised questions in the House with the Minister on this. From information I have seen there hasn't been any of these types of programs in the smaller communities and not in the Mackenzie Delta region. I'd just like to ask the Minister exactly, did they do analysis before this money was allocated to where these programs already exist and where those programs don't exist?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, did the Member say palliative care or mental health care?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I am talking about the \$800,000, the \$100,000 that is going to each regional health centre. You said it was there for the palliative care program so I would just like to know.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, sorry, I didn't say palliative care, I said primary health care so it is not restricted to palliative care and, as I said, it is meant for local small initiatives, areas where the boards feel there are needs, and they will have to come back with a plan and I expect that some of it will certainly be allocated to small centres as well, but they have to come back with their plan yet.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The chair will recognize Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, further to my question I asked earlier on the number of specialists and the average total compensation package, just to rephrase my earlier question. When this came up, there was a lot of concern about the amount of money that was being put into this plan and the fact that there was a shortage of specialists and this would be needed to bring them in. So I would like to know if in fact since this package has been sealed up and agreed to and signed off, have we in fact had more specialists hired on? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information I have before me indicates that we have a total of 15 filled positions out of a total of 21.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So is that an increase from where we were when this whole process was under review or under negotiation, or are we actually less?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that they have added a couple of new specialists, that prior to the conclusion of this negotiated agreement, the vacancy rate was higher.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if we could get an outline of what is included in the \$908,000 as infrastructure to support the integrated service delivery model?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the \$908,000 is for office space, for furniture and minor equipment for the mental



health workers. Again, I don't know exactly what office space, what furniture, or what minor equipment will be needed, but this allocation would be spent depending on where the mental health workers are hired, what is needed, and when they are hired. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd also like to get some information about the \$431,000 for the 1-800 call centre. I know in traveling in Alberta, we saw the one that Capital Health has and it was quite impressive. Is this \$431,000 to cover the costs for just getting one set up? Is this just to sort of get things going, or can I get an idea of what the ongoing costs are going to be? What are we looking at to run one of these things?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. This amount of money is for the operation of the call centre. The \$431,000 in operations expenditures reflects a one-time startup cost of \$118,000 and \$312,500 is the prorated amount we would need for this year from November 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of the fiscal year. The full year ongoing costs are estimated at \$750,000. A request for proposals has been issued and we expect to have that back on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Health and Social Services, health services, programs, not previously authorized, \$5.555 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$6.956 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Department Of Justice

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Justice, operation expenditure, not previously authorized, \$97,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$97,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### NWT Housing Corporation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** NWT Housing Corporation, operation expenditure, NWT Housing Corporation, special warrant, \$310,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Not previously authorized, \$1.080 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, special warrant, \$310,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Not previously authorized, \$1.080 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Department Of Education, Culture And Employment

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Education, Culture and Employment, operation expenditure, education and culture, special warrant, \$150,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, special warrant, \$150,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As foundations are a problem in areas especially where there is permafrost, is this going to be the total amount required for this school repair?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, it's hard to predict that this will be enough money to maintain the building until a new one is built. I think in the capital plan, there's one off in the future years probably in about 2007-2008 we would have to continue using this building, but they are certainly repairs we need right now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I am looking for a little bit of certainty here, understanding that future years might be bringing something else down the line, but for the foundation for the Chief T'Seleie School in Fort Good Hope, \$150,000, is this emergency repair? A special warrant of \$150,000, it sounds like it was an emergency repair that was needed immediately sort of thing.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, yes. There was an assessment done on it. The total cost for doing repairs to the foundation is \$250,000. The department found \$100,000, but we are short on it and required another \$150,000. This is an emergency because they have to do the work now, but it is certainly not the permanent solution. The permanent solution will be the replacement of that old school eventually.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Page 13, Education, Culture and Employment, operation expense, total department, \$150,000, special warrant.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Department Of Transportation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Transportation, operation expense, highways, not previously authorized, \$100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

### Department Of Resources, Wildlife And Economic Development

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operation expense, corporate management, special warrant, not previously authorized, \$50,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Environmental protection, not previously authorized, \$50,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Resource management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$624,000. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, a number of areas within Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development now are putting in for funding for additional expenses incurred in the devolution and revenue sharing negotiations. This is an ongoing item and has been put into the business plan process. So what happened that made this cost go above what was allocated during business plan and main estimate review?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, there was an allocation originally. All of the government departments are operating with pretty tight budgets. The workload, the pace of development on these issues, on devolution, on the resource revenue sharing negotiations are moving more intensely than what was anticipated and thus a need for more money than originally was budgeted. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it's a good thing to know it's moving along quicker and for that reason there's a larger expense. Does that mean it will be completed sooner and that way we know that we are coming to a conclusion of this process? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I have used the word "intensely" not meaning that it's necessarily going to be resolved quicker, but there is more effort put into it by all of the parties and as one of three parties in this process, we have to keep pace with the others. I don't know exactly that they ever had an exact deadline for when they would complete it. I think the objective has always been to complete it as quickly as we can though.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can remember earlier questions in the life of this assembly when we thought this royalty revenue sharing or resource revenue sharing would be complete within months, but we were quickly running out of time in this assembly, so obviously it will be for the continued task of the new government to continue on and hopefully bring it to a conclusion. That will be all for now, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** A comment. Resource management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$624,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Forest management, special warrant, \$1.82 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, special warrant, \$1.82 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$724,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

### Department Of Executive

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Executive, capital investment expenditure, Financial Management Board Secretariat, directorate, special warrant, \$180,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Not previously authorized, \$280,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems to be a common occurrence within our government. It always seems to be in the area of IT and once again we are seeing a server and patch management tool software for the Technology Service Centre. Are we going to continue to see this? We know again it was put through a business plan process and amounts were allocated. Here we are six months into the fiscal year and we are going in for extra funding. So do we find something grossly out of sync or more expensive? Again, it just seems to be a growth that has energy and grows on its own. Are we going to see something soon that would stick to the plans that we put forward or are we going to continue to see growth throughout the year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, there is a multi-year plan and I believe in the long run, we do, on average, stick to it. We do run into situations though where unexpected circumstances cause us to need particular pieces of software or hardware. In this case, the main reason for this expenditure for the server patch management tools was because of the unexpected increase in viruses that we have been experiencing over the last several months. So this one is something that couldn't have been anticipated. Mr. Chairman, on average, generally, we are staying within our multi-year plan in this area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With these additional resources we're putting to the TSC are we going to see contractors in the smaller centres squeezed out of business as this section gears up, or are we going to see them using the private sector to try and help deal with the situations that we find ourselves in from time to time? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we're honouring all existing contracts we have with providers and we are looking at ways to maximize the services that the local and community providers can give us. This should not result in the local providers being squeezed out. They'll have to, of course, bid on tenders and so on as usual and hopefully they'll be successful. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will those tenders be broken down so that some of those bodies out there can bid on this regionally? My concern is, for example, out of Inuvik, if we have problems with computers from a government office and there's nobody that can fix them locally or if there's a contractor from a different community that either someone's got to be flown in at an extra expense or equipment be sent out for repairs. We know the problems with doing both of those. What are we considering here? It seems that since the TSC has come in we've been grouping either purchases and things of that nature. The last 10 tenders that went out were won by three companies in Yellowknife and none were won from outside businesses. Are we going to be keeping that in mind as we look at "Towards a Better Tomorrow?" Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Voytilla.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity, the TSC does not do the actual bulk purchasing, that's done through Public Works and Services, but certainly the intent is to continue to put those tenders out in the North and open them up for bid by all businesses serving the Northwest Territories. So there's no intention to try and structure our tenders on hardware acquisition in any way that would prevent local and northern suppliers from successfully bidding.

With respect to the TSC and the services, the TSC is honouring, as the Minister pointed out, all existing service arrangements with existing service providers in the regions and we are looking and actively exploring with those service providers ways to integrate them and use them in the provision of services in the regions and communities. One of the key objectives of the TSC is to get a critical mass of service in each region so that, in fact, there is continuity of service and there is more coverage so people can, in fact, get effective service. In some cases where that can be or is being provided by the private sector we'll continue to pursue that approach. Where we can, by pooling our resources in the region, get that continuity and that extended service coverage in place, then we'll be doing that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment here on the response. I still have a concern that although all northern companies across the North will be able to bid on things, I mean, you can bid on it, but again, if it's all geared towards largest provider then we know that by bulk volume you can usually get in a better tender because the smaller communities or businesses would have difficulty matching that. Hopefully, as we go through this process we're always keeping in mind that right now, previous governments have seen fit to break things down, not to go back to the old Government Services way of doing business where everything was shipped out to communities and there was no local business or suppliers. Hopefully we're not going to go in that direction. We do have to look at equities in how we do things, but it is good to hear that it will honour existing contracts where it makes sense

and they will continue to use the private sector to help deliver the service side for our equipment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I took that as being more of a comment, but the answer would be yes, I agree.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Directorate, not previously authorized, \$280,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### **Financial Management Board Secretariat**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total Financial Management Board Secretariat, special warrant, \$180,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Not previously authorized, \$280,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, special warrant, \$180,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Not previously authorized, \$280,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### **Department Of Public Works And Services**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, systems and communications, not previously authorized, negative \$120,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$120,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### **Department Of Health And Social Services**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, services, not previously authorized, \$1.385 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Program community support, not previously authorized, \$200,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$1.311 million. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May we get some information on the \$1.15 million to provide appropriation authority for the allocation of the health accord funding to acquire new medical equipment, a priority identified by the department? Do you have an idea where this is going? What type of equipment? Regarding the health accord, is that the

agreement signed recently by Ministers of Health Canada? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, the Member is correct in terms of the question with regard to the health accord. On the equipment, again, I don't know what this equipment is, but it goes into Stanton Territorial Health Authority. It's two pieces of equipment: Fluoro Philips Super 80 CP -- whatever that is -- a General Gen Rad -- I don't know if that's general radiation equipment -- and an X-ray/Fluoro for Hay River. So two of them to Stanton Territorial Health Authority and one to Hay River in year one of this program. Then there's also a portable ultrasound for Stanton Territorial Health Authority. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Minister of Health and Social Services can explain what some of that equipment would be used for.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know if he's taken medicine yet either. Either he can or the Member can when he gets his course completed. I'll go to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I must confess I don't have any more knowledge of what those particular pieces of equipment are than the Minister of Finance. I would point out as well that there's some funding available, I believe, for portable X-ray equipment for communities as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister then inform us how many portable pieces of X-ray equipment this would be picking up?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe the plan is to buy 15 units at the cost of \$25,000 a unit.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$1.311 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Community health programs, not previously authorized, negative \$250,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$2.646 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Department Of Education, Culture And Employment

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, education and culture, special warrant, negative \$150,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Not previously authorized, \$200,000. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in our books in the schedule it says that the effect on the GNWT financial position will be nil as this amount will be offset by a contribution from Heritage Canada. Will Heritage Canada be offsetting the entire cost of this school or is there going to be some cost to the Government of the Northwest Territories? I wonder if we could get that identified.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the cash contribution from the GNWT will be \$618,000. In addition to that, there are some in-kind contributions that will be made to the project. These include some environmental impact analysis, project management salaries, technical support, contract insurance and providing and maintaining shared use facilities. There are in-kind costs above the \$618,000. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not speaking against this, I want to be clear about that, but I was just wondering why we would have a line in here that there's no impact on the GNWT financial position if, in fact, we know that we're going to be putting in \$600,000 plus in cash and another half a million in soft costs. There isn't a complete offset. It doesn't seem like it's quite accurate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the \$200,000 that is in this application is all federal money. There is no cost to the GNWT. The other costs I'm referring to and the other ongoing things will be built into the business plans and hopefully handled through the normal process. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Education, Culture and Employment, not previously authorized, \$200,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total department \$200,000. Oh, sorry. Total department, special warrant, negative \$150,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Not previously authorized, \$200,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Department Of Transportation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Transportation, capital investment expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$2.9 million. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the \$3 million for funding to accelerate phase II of the Mackenzie Valley road bridge building program, can we, for the record, get more detail than is provided on that? Mr. Chairman, the reason I ask that is because during business plans we were given information about the winter road work that was going on and the bridges that were getting built and this is above and beyond that. So if I can just have some detail on that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we've had to coordinate this program with the contributions we're getting from the federal government through DIAND. The total project is a two-year project. There will be 12 bridges constructed between Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope with a total cost of \$5.7 million. This year we have \$3 million. DIAND, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, are putting in \$2 million and we're putting in \$1 million. In the second year, in 2004-2005, it will be in the business plans and the contributions will be \$1.6 million from the federal government, \$900,000 from our government and \$200,000 from industry. That's in the second year. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two hundred thousand dollars from industry. Has that already been worked out and negotiated with companies? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no, that hasn't been worked out finally with them. The companies that are currently using the winter road will be approached first. This year, those companies are Paramount Resources and Canadian North Resources. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Highways, not previously authorized, \$2.9 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Road licensing and safety, not previously authorized, negative \$100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$2.8 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### **Department Of Resources, Wildlife And Economic Development**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, capital investment expenditures, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, not previously authorized, negative \$60,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$60,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does committee agree the detail has been completed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2003-2004.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### **Clause By Clause**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** We're going to be doing clause by clause of the bill. Clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 8.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$11,844,726.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Part 2, vote 2, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$5.776 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total supplementary appropriation, \$17,620,726.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Whereas it appears by message from the Commissioner, oh...Bill 32...Oh, okay. To the preamble.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** The bill as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does the committee agree that Bill 32 is ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Bill 32 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Handley and staff.

---Applause

Does committee agree we move on to Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### **Bill 22, Waste Recovery And Reduction Act**

#### **Committee Report 19-14(6): Report On The Review Of Bill 22, Waste Recovery And Reduction Act, And Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** I'd like to ask the Minister if he would like to have his witnesses. Mr. Antoine, do you have any opening remarks?

#### **Minister's Opening Comments**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, and thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Today we are considering Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act. This proposed legislation responds to requests from individuals, environmental groups, municipalities and MLAs for this government to take action on reducing waste in our communities and environment. It provides a free work to develop waste recovery programs. It provides:

- the authority for the government to designate and collect recoverable materials;
- register and collect surcharges from distributors;
- create an environment fund which is a special purpose recovery reuse/recycling fund;
- establish guidelines for community collection depots and regional processing centres;
- do inspections and audit to monitor and enforce recovery programs; and,
- set out penalties for anyone not following the act and regulations.

The proposed legislation will allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to design and implement a beverage container recovery program. It also provides for a flexible recovery system that can, in consultation with NWT residents, grow and include other materials in the future, such as tires, computers, cardboard and batteries.

The public and stakeholders will be consulted during the development of any recovery programs because we recognize that the success of such programs depends on their participation and support.

The penalties and enforcement provisions contained in the Waste Recovery and Reduction Act address the industry concerns that all businesses making, importing, selling products included in the recovery program are treated equally. Through programs established by regulations, this proposed legislation will help us reduce the cost of handling and storing garbage at community landfills, maintain a clean environment

and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by conserving resources.

I want to thank the Members of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development for their work in reviewing this bill. I look forward to hearing the Members' views on this legislation which adds to our efforts to protect our environment. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Comments from the committee. Mr. Roland.

#### **Standing Committee On Government And Economic Development Comments**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't have an official report as I and other committee Members took part in reading our report back on the review of Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act, into the House yesterday.

Just in general, Mr. Chairman, there was general support from the large group of presenters that did come out to our public reviews that were held during the month of August and into September, finally concluding here in Yellowknife in this month of October.

There were four motions of a minor, non-substantive nature that were moved. We reported the bill as ready for Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted and are prepared to go through this. As I stated, there was general support, but also some concerns with how the regulations would be formed. We were happy to hear the Minister state that he would have the advisory board or committee work with the department in possibly helping with the setup of regulations that would bring ease to a lot of the concerns out there. Concerns around how this would be implemented, what kind of paperwork would be in place and how would it affect the small businesses that are out there and would now have to collect this fee and turn it into the government.

With that, Mr. Chairman, we look forward to proceeding with this and bringing it to conclusion with passage of this bill. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short note to...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. We skipped one little step over here. I'd like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring his witnesses.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Is the committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

Thank you. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister to introduce his witnesses.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have Bob McLeod, he's the deputy minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, to my left; Emery Paquin, who's the director of environmental protection,

to my right; and Janis Cooper from Department of Justice on my far right. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Ms. Lee.

#### General Comments

**MS. LEE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to put on record a brief comment in support of the bill and its principle and its intended action. Mr. Chairman, as you're aware, this has been in the works for several years now. In the spring it almost fell off our agenda due to the demands put on the legislative workload, but I am certainly happy that we were able to see this until this stage. I believe that this is very good legislative action and it will certainly trigger a program that would allow a recycling program in the North that I believe is long overdue. I don't really have much else to add other than to thank all the people involved in this legislation and the department staff who work to incorporate the suggestions that were brought up in the consultation process. I would like to wish the bill well and I hope it has a very good and long, prosperous life. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Antoine, any comments?

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** I'd like to thank the Member for her support. It's certainly serious work that we've done to try to reduce impacts waste has on our environment and the amount of litter and cost of handling discarded garbage in our communities. It certainly is a good bill. It's a long time in coming and it's finally here. Hopefully everybody, I'm sure, will support this. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like to just briefly indicate that I am in support of this legislation. Hopefully it will help us reduce the amount of garbage that we put into landfills and divert waste for reuse or recycling, which will extend the life of landfills.

Over the years, since I've been a Member, I've heard from many of my constituents that this type of legislation should be a priority for the government. So, as Ms. Lee indicated, I was quite concerned this spring when I heard the legislation might not proceed and very happy that the Minister and his department were able to work with the committee to get the legislation to this stage. It's important because I've heard from a lot of people that we need to have legislation that provides residents of the Northwest Territories with the opportunity to participate in recycling programs.

In the North, waste disposal is a challenge for all of us. I know it's certainly something that I experienced when I was a Member of city council. There was always a big concern about how we would deal with waste and the fact that it takes up so much space. Developing new dumps is always a difficult process, just identifying them and then developing them for use. I think that this is going to be an important tool in our arsenal to help reduce the amount of materials that go into our landfills.

In order for this to work properly, we're going to have to make sure that the communities are fully supported to implement the legislation because if it's too much of a burden it won't work. People won't be able to make it work. The successful

implementation will also be dependent on the support and the desire of people in the North to make it work. To achieve that and to get the broad public support that we want, the legislation needs to be introduced with a plain language communications campaign.

I note the Minister, in his opening comments, talked about consulting during the development of the programs. I want to really encourage the department to make sure that plain language promotion programs are also used to get people aware of the need to reduce, reuse and recycle and to get people involved in the recycling process. Hopefully this sort of legislation will help create employment as typically there are more jobs associated with recycling of waste than with simple landfill and disposal.

The other thing we have to work towards – and hopefully this legislation will help – is to better promote a climate of conservation or you might say a conservation ethic among our residents, so that we are all using our resources wisely.

So in closing, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to see the bill at this stage. I support the bill and I sincerely hope we will see the program grow very quickly to encompass the other materials that the Minister, in his opening comments, said we might see in the not-too-distant future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to echo the sentiments of my colleagues and first, thanking the Minister and his department for bringing this legislation forward. I know they've been working on it for some time. We know it almost didn't make the cut off for getting dealt with in this government because we had so much on our agendas, but it was a public priority. It was a priority of people of the Northwest Territories. That was my sense, at any rate, from the amount of input and feedback I was getting. All credit to the department for recognizing that and for doing what they could to bring this back. So I would like to thank the Minister, also his deputy and the staff of the department, who I think certainly had a personal commitment to seeing this through. I am glad that they have had that.

I do have a couple of questions and I did make a public presentation on some potential concerns that were raised with me and they really relate to the administration of the first program. The Minister did talk in his opening comments about consultation. I wanted to ask just a little bit about the advisory committee and get some understanding from the Minister as to who might make up this committee and my interest is in seeing people involved in the industry who know the business on the advisory committee. Is that the Minister's desire as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intention here is to involve people who are in the distributing industry and community people as well. So it will be consumers and distributors. We will try to have a mix. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further from the Minister, as the regulations are developed for this and for other programs, there will be discussion with all MLAs, or at least

committee, so that committee and MLAs are able to go out to their constituents and receive input if there are any problems, any concerns, any hang-ups, we can deal with them at that level before we have implemented a program that possibly could cause us problems down the road. Will MLAs have that chance to look at regulations as they develop? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, our intention here is to try to get the advisory committee going right away and whatever process that the advisory committee, as well as the MLAs want us to take on the development of regulations, we will do that. So that's the commitment from the department and myself.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** I thank the Minister for that. This is just the type of legislation that I think the Northwest Territories needs. It is an important area that government needs to take the lead role in. Recycling has to be easier for us to do if we really expect to see a response. If it's very difficult, if it's onerous, there are all kinds of hoops to jump through, we found that people don't make the effort to recycle. So the easier we can make it, the better. Again, I would just like to thank the Minister and his department for some very good work here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an important vehicle for waste reduction and recovery in the NWT of reusable items. This is the first step. We want to do it right. We will commit to a plain language presentation to the public and have an advisory committee involving all the different stakeholders and engage the MLAs. Let's do it together and do it right. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Clause By Clause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Bill 22, Waste Reduction and Recovery Act, clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 8.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 9.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 10.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 11.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 12.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 13.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 14.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 15.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does the committee agree that Bill 22, Waste Reduction and Recovery Act is ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Bill 22 is now ready for third reading.

---Applause

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe we said we would proceed with the next bill on the list being Bill 24.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Miltenberger, do you have any opening comments?

#### Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act

**Committee Report 18-14(6): Report On The Review Of Bill 21 Protection Against Family Violence Act, Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act, And Bill 26, Youth Justice Act**

#### Minister's Opening Comments

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have an opportunity today to speak with the Members of the committee about Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act.



This bill and the related midwifery practice framework will assist departmental officials, Health and Social Services authority officials and health care providers to enhance choices in birthing services for residents of the Northwest Territories. The act will regulate the practice or registered midwives throughout the Northwest Territories. This act also addresses many issues that have been identified by stakeholders as obstacles to the implementation of safe and effective midwifery practice in the Northwest Territories.

Some of the key provisions of the bill are concerned with describing the requirements for registration as a registered midwife, describing the practice of registered midwives, authorizing the Minister to establish or adopt a midwifery practice framework, setting out the powers of the registrar to register persons as registered midwives and issue certificates authorizing the establishment or adoption of a code of conduct for registered midwives, setting out a procedure to be followed on the review of conduct of registered midwives, authorize and establishment or adoption of a continued competency program for registered midwives and setting our rules respecting various aspects of the practice of registered midwives, including the use of the title "registered midwife."

The bill responds to the need outlined in NWT Health and Social Services System Action Plan 2002-2005. To update the legislative framework to protect the safety of the public and define roles and responsibilities in the system. This legislation is necessary to support and to promote midwifery profession in the NWT and ensure the health and safety of the public.

The department expects that this legislation will provide women with greater choice for safe birthing services closer to their home communities and ensure greater integration of midwifery services with other health resources throughout the Northwest Territories.

I would like to thank the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for consideration of this bill and look forward to discussing Bill 24 with Members of committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Bell.

#### **Standing Committee On Social Programs Comments**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't reread the report that we've already read into the record, but I would like to say that I think, as committee took this bill on the road and did our consultation, we saw an outpouring of support for the legislation. I have to say unlike most other bills that we've taken on the road, there was so much interest in this and I think for good reason. Most of the people who spoke to committee talked about the need for women to be able to give birth in their home communities, not to have to be uprooted and moved to Yellowknife or another regional centre some weeks before the due date. Furthermore, the stress that this causes families who are possibly left behind or at times husbands and children who do make the trek to the regional centre have to leave their wives, pull kids out of school and husbands out of work. It really is something that if there is anything we can do to change the system and have people deliver babies in the smaller communities, I think it was important for us to find a way to do that.

There was concern raised on a number of fronts about the inclusion of a designated sites clause. To his credit, the Minister heard the concern and agreed that he would stand down that section of the bill. That was well received by all,

including committee. There still will be standards obviously that have to be met and there will be criteria that will have to be met, but much of that is taken care of by the midwifery itself, Mr. Chairman. There will be a self-regulation and that was very reassuring to committee.

The other point I would like to make is there was a lot of discussion and speculation about whether or not doctors, in general supported this legislation, supported the concept of midwifery and I say mostly speculation because we've heard from very few doctors on the issue. We did get a letter of support from the medical association, but I would say we did have one doctor who came out and made a presentation, Dr. McFadden, came to hearings in Yellowknife and was very positive about the working relationship at Stanton Hospital between the midwives, nurses and doctors, in general, and was very optimistic about the possibility that this collaborative model would work well and would be well received. She wasn't purporting to speak for all her colleagues, but it was certainly nice to have that support from a doctor in this community. I know I appreciated that and it was good for everyone to hear. I would like to thank her for her presentation to committee.

Again, I thank the Minister for his work and the department for their work in bringing this legislation forward. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Would the Minister like to bring in some witnesses?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort in the witnesses.

For the record, Mr. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mr. Mark Aitken, director of legislation for Justice; Mr. Blaire Barbour, senior policy advisor for legislation for Health and Social Services; and, Dave Murray, the deputy minister of Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Dent.

#### **General Comments**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's about time. It's nice to see this legislation coming forward. It's something that a lot of us have been waiting to see for quite some time. Like Mr. Bell, right up front I would like to thank the Minister for responding to the concerns that were brought forward by many stakeholders about the designated sites issue.

This was a fairly significant point of concern among the people who presented to the committee. There was some concern because of the timing between the public hearings and when we were going to do the clause by clause with the Minister that there might be a problem getting this back into the House in time. The Minister was very proactive in ensuring he had Cabinet approval upfront to make sure he could agree to the necessary changes to the legislation and then made sure we could bring this legislation forward. I think that's an example of very cooperative work between committee and the Minister and

I appreciate that and congratulate the Minister on that approach.

Mr. Chairman, the practice of midwifery is an ancient one and it's only been in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that hospital births became the norm as opposed to home births with a midwife in attendance. All of the research so far indicates that the practice of midwifery is a safe one and one that provides a level of pre- and post-natal care that is not common with our current overloaded health system. Midwives are able to focus on a woman and her family throughout the pregnancy. In fact, we were told in presentations, that typically appointments can last up to an hour. We know that physicians can't dedicate that kind of individual time in our system right now.

Mr. Chairman, we spend an enormous amount of resources right now in the NWT trying to deal with the impacts of poor prenatal care, including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. With the introduction of this legislation, hopefully we are going to be increasing the level of prenatal awareness and hopefully, again, lessening some of the harmful behaviours that lead to problems like that.

As Mr. Bell noted, this legislation allows women and their families more choice for the birth of their children and right now, too often, women in communities outside of the larger centres are required to go to the larger centre three or four weeks before their babies are due. So that often means they have to leave family, friends and support behind while they wait for their child to be born in Yellowknife.

For some women, coming to Yellowknife to have their babies is a desired thing, but for many other women, coming here is difficult. So, Mr. Chairman, it's good that this legislation will more often allow women to remain in their home communities and give birth to their children close to their loved ones.

Mr. Chairman, the NWT is the sixth jurisdiction in Canada to bring forward this type of legislation. For it to work, we have to ensure that there is support in place so that the practice of midwifery can flourish in the North. This includes ensuring that there is universal access to the service through the health care system. So the Ministry of Health will have to support doctors, nurses and midwives to work in cooperation to ensure the best care for their patients.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage the Minister to recruit and properly support midwives in the North and to work closely with health authorities to help them educate the public and professional groups about the role of midwives and their range of knowledge, skills and expertise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his comments. This has been a very compressed process. I believe it's 10 months that we moved from ground zero to having a piece of legislation that is now before this House for consideration for third reading and it is long overdue. It's a fundamental piece. It's the foundation that will allow us to move birthing services to other communities and make it a service women can access closer to the communities that they live in. I would like to thank as well the committee and all the people who have worked to make this possible, and the officials who have worked extra hours to get this done. It has been a mission for people like Leslie Paulette and Gisela Becker, two midwives. I know it will allow midwives who I know exist in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Smith, Hay River and hopefully soon other communities to practice their profession in a

regulated way that makes them part of our integrated service deliver system. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like my colleagues on the standing committee, this was a bill that had an extraordinary characteristic to it of a groundswell of public and professional support that is a really rare thing. So it was quite a pleasure and a real learning experience for me to attend with the committee the public hearings and to hear from such a diverse public on this, Mr. Chairman. From the midwives in the NWT who are already practicing and who have been the passionate advocates for this to some of the physicians and the parents of people who have experienced midwife attendance, that includes a couple of grandfathers who are, at least on my list, some of the most passionate supporters of this service.

What I hope that I have, an expectation that I have, as midwives become established in our communities and people become families and mothers become more aware of the services and the advantages that we are going to see in subtle, but very significant ways, Mr. Chairman, I think there will be some changes in our communities and in our families. As my colleagues have already pointed out, it really almost seems atrocious that we insist that mothers leave their families for approximately a month to come to a larger centre to have their baby and then go back home. The joy and the care that surrounds the birth of a new child is denied, that immediate family in that community. This, over time, will help to restore that.

We haven't had this in our communities for 30 or 40 years. I think that's approximately the time frame of this kind of regime where mothers had to leave their communities. So I hope we are going to rediscover an attachment of significance of families being able to have their children in their homes with their own families. I think that will have significant benefits.

So if I have only one thing to leave in comment, Mr. Chairman, it would really be to echo the sentiments of Mr. Dent who said that we are anxious to see this implemented as soon as practicable and as soon as our systems can allow. This really is a significant and a positive piece of work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a grandfather, I would like to thank the Member for his comments. The bill is scheduled to come into force April 1, 2004. We already have some identified resources in the budget for this year. So we have made the initial investment and we intend to make this a living useful tool for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, from one grandfather to another, I would like to say to the Minister, I am glad to see this legislation has come forward. I was not on the standing committee that went around doing public consultations on this bill, but from everything that I gathered, there were some really good turnouts and a lot of support out there for this piece of legislation.

I know that if this will do anything to open up the doors to others being able to give birth in the community I represent anyway, it's been a service that's been lacking for awhile, and it's always been a concern of mine, the amount of money, the expense, the hardship for the families that have been caused by women having to travel here to Yellowknife, whether it's a single mother or a mother with two or three children and their husbands are working. It really disrupts a family to have the women come over here and be here for three weeks on end to say nothing of the cost involved. So I am really looking forward to this maybe being a piece of the puzzle that helps restore the birthing in Hay River. I just want to say to the Minister that I am glad that this is happening and I look forward to the services being offered in Hay River and that birthing does take place there again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are all the comments I have.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a brief comment in support of this bill as well. I do believe that this will enable women and others trained in delivering babies to do this and facilitate some of the gaps in services in our communities – close the gap, I should say. This will allow our people to go back to doing things that I am sure people have done for many years. I also come from a culture where it was the normal practice that grandmothers delivered babies and other family members who traditionally learned to do it, who are able to do it without any problem whatsoever. I think that this is a step in a positive direction. We are blazing trails in some ways because this is not done everywhere in Canada, but I do believe this is a step in the right direction.

I would just like to make a comment that given that this is something that we are introducing in a new way, we are introducing an old way of doing things in a new way, and there might be some gaps in training and support. So I think that it's really important that while we are passing this legislation allowing this practice to take place more formally that there are necessary resources and support provided for training and other medical attention that might be required in delivering babies by midwives and all of the regulations and standards that need to be in place.

So I think it's very important that the government and the department work very closely with those partners who will be providing this service and training other people to do it. In principle and in the spirit of this legislation, I support what this legislation is doing. I am glad to be part of this process. I just wanted to put on record a very short comment in support of this legislative action. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. I didn't hear any questions there. General comments. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I would like to take this time to congratulate the Minister for accomplishing something he's been working on for quite some time and bringing it forward by implementing it through legislation. I feel it's important that we have such legislation, but I would like to ask the Minister some questions on the implementation of this scenario. It's good to pass legislation, and good legislation, but it's also important to be practical. We have to ask if this is available to all communities in the Northwest Territories and is this program going to be implemented over a period of time to ensure that communities have the capacity and human resources to offer midwifery services in all communities in the Northwest Territories. Does

the Minister have a strategic plan in place of how this will be implemented in all communities in the Northwest Territories?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is a process of capacity building. The key building block is this legislation. We have made an investment with two midwifery positions, one in Hay River and one in Smith. I know that there are also midwife/nurses in Yellowknife and some in Inuvik. The intent is to give the authorities the legislative base and, through the business planning process, the capacity to start moving out birthing services to the regions and to the communities as they are ready and as they can meet the standards. As has been indicated by the Members, there is a wide range of service provided by midwives, prenatal and post-natal as well as actual birthing services. So, Mr. Chairman, yes, the intent is in the coming months and years to have this service more and more available to more and more communities. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to say your goal is to see it in more and more communities. My question was do you have a plan to implement this program in all communities in the Northwest Territories? Yes or no?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is a plan to move birthing services to the communities. Do I have the plan that's going to say when it will be in each individual community? No, I don't. Mr. Chairman, the authorities will play a large role in looking at the resources we have. What we are doing with this exercise is giving them the legislative capacity to engage in that development of services? It is going to happen. We have committed some significant resources already and the authorities are all committed to this process as are the people in this Legislature. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's the frustration of having to be here for the last two weeks and raising issues in my constituency where this government has passed similar legislation to give authority to communities such as mental health and alcohol and drug workers, providing palliative care programs and all these programs that seem to be delivered in regional, large centres. If you are going to pass legislation in this House, the communities that want to have the birth of their children in their home community, they should have the ability to do that? Not have it laid out so that you have have and have-not communities. Some health boards implement programs and other health boards don't. We are either going to have some consistency here or we have programs that are available in all communities in the Northwest Territories from Holman Island to Fort Smith and from Tsiigehtchic to Sachs Harbour. We have to eventually find a system to ensure that capacity in communities means something.

We are passing legislation that is going to benefit a few. How much money is going to be in place to implement this over the next five years?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one of the issues related to midwifery is the volume of births and we have statistics from across the Northwest Territories. You need an average of about 40 births a year to allow a midwife to do her practice and maintain her credentials. The statistics we have is that the average birth per year in the Beaufort-Delta is about 131 births. We anticipate that we are going to have to move towards having a capacity to carry three midwives. Mr. Chairman, the authorities are going to work with the communities and they are going to have to develop a service, a system of service delivery in this area to deal not only with the birthing but the prenatal and post-natal care. The reality is we have to look at those particulars and I would be happy to share this with the Members if they would like. It just lays out the numbers and what we think is necessary to support this particular service. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could, I think he should make that available to all communities in the Northwest Territories so they can realize how many programs we have out there and what programs are accessible and what criteria is being used to implement these programs. You keep talking about the authorities. I feel that authority should be made up of community representatives, trustees of a health board and simply have a handful of people appointed, handpicked. Are you talking about the authorities which are elected authorities or handpicked authorities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am referring to the existing health and social services authorities that are now in existence and we are engaged in this exercise of providing services for health and social services across the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked that question also in the previous comment about the information that you said you have in front of you, if you can provide that to communities and make them aware of the numbers and the number positions that are needed to implement such a program in the different regions in the Territories. Then the communities can realize there's an opportunity to train or have someone develop that program in the communities. I have communities that are almost 1,000 people, yet we are just operating with the basics. I think it would be nice if we could have a full slate of nurses that are there 365 days a year without having to worry about closing down your health centre because you can't find enough nurses or basically having to do away with alcohol and drug programs because you have a technical glitch with the system in some community. So the information that you have in front of you, will you offer all programs that are available to communities and make them aware of who is getting what so that we know what's being offered out there?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this information will be shared with communities, once the bill is approved in the House, as we move to implementation April 1<sup>st</sup>. There are policies and standards that will be developed, as well as this information will be put together in a package and I will commit to ensure that working with our health and social services systems that that information gets out to the communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. General comments. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Just my closing comments. I would just like to congratulate the Minister again with accomplishing something in his term as Minister in which he had a goal, like I said, to bring this forward. He brought it forth as a private Member and now as a Minister and he definitely did his job getting this personal legislation. So, again, I would like to thank him.

#### Clause By Clause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Are we ready for clause by clause?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Clause By Clause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill 24, clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Part 1, practice of registered midwives, clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause Part 2, registration, clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 8. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I don't recognize a quorum.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. I will ring the bell.

---Ring of Bells

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill 24, part 2, registration, clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 7.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 8.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 9.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 10.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 11.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 12.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 13.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause Part 3, review of conduct, clause 14.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 15.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 16.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 17.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 18.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 19.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 20.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 21.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 22.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 23.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 24.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 25.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 26.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 27.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 28.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 29.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 30.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 31.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 32.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 33.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 34.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 35.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 36.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 37.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 38.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 39.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 40.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 41.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.  
**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 42.  
**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 43.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause Part 4, general, clause 44.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 45.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 46.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 47.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 48.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 49.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 50.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 51.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 52.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 53.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 54.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 55.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 56.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 57.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does committee agree that Bill 24 is ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill 24 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The chair will call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

### **Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act**

#### **Committee Report 19-14(6): Report On The Review Of Bill 22, Waste Recovery And Reduction Act, And Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. We will proceed with the review of Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act. Does the Minister have any opening comments? Mr. Steen.

#### **Minister's Opening Comments**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to begin Committee of the Whole review of Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act, an act that will fundamentally change and improve the way municipal governments in the Northwest Territories govern. This bill modernizes the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Hamlets Act and the Charter Communities Act. As many Members are aware, this bill has been under development for several years, time that was used to consult closely with community leaders and representatives, and ensure that this bill meets the needs of municipal governments across the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, the overall intent of this bill is to provide municipal governments with a legislative framework that describes in broad strokes their roles and responsibilities. We wanted to move away from the current prescriptive list of duties and powers in order to provide municipal governments with the tools they need to effectively address current issues and plan for the ongoing evolution of government in the Northwest Territories. These amendments respond to request for change from Northwest Territories municipal governments and will put into place modern municipal governance legislation that is consistent with that in other jurisdictions across Canada.

Some highlights of this bill include:

- a new section setting out the purpose of municipal corporations;
- broader bylaw-making powers by using "spheres of jurisdiction;"
- limitations on municipal liability for certain matters and activities, such as public utilities and roads;
- simpler requirements for financial statements; and,
- increased accountabilities to residents.

Mr. Chairman, the Charter Communities Act, the Hamlets Act and the Cities, Towns and Villages Act are very similar to each other. People have noted that the three settlements in the Northwest Territories are not included as the legislation governing them, the Settlements Act, is not in this package. Mr. Chairman, the Settlements Act is a very different piece of legislation. For example, settlements do not have bylaw-making powers, unlike other municipal governments. Because of this difference, combined with the shortness of time and the limited resources available, it was decided to complete the Settlements Act after the other three acts had been drafted.

Mr. Chairman, I want to take this opportunity to assure the Members that work is well underway, but because the Settlements Act is based on a fundamentally different system of governance, drafting on it began after the work on the legislation for cities, towns and villages, hamlets and charter communities, which are all very similar. However, Mr. Chairman, I am confident that comprehensive amendments to the Settlements Act will be ready for consideration by Members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly as they determine their legislative agenda.

Mr. Chairman, we consulted regularly on this legislation, particularly with municipal governments, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories, the organization which represents senior administrative officers. Throughout these consultations, one theme came out very clearly: municipal governments want this legislation because it provides them with the tools they need to face the opportunities and challenges coming in our future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Minister Steen. The chair will call on the chairman of the standing committee responsible for the bill, Mr. Roland.

#### **Standing Committee On Governance And Economic Development Comments**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development did a number of public hearings on this, starting in late August and into September and then finally doing clause by clause here in Yellowknife on October 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 52 motions to amend the bill which were carried by committee and concurred with by the Minister.

Mr. Chairman, a few other highlights that I'd like to put out here before we get into future detail is the issue the Minister just mentioned in the area of settlements. The committee felt strongly enough that we prepared a committee motion to that effect.

Another major concern throughout these changes were in the area of the liabilities and a number of changes to help reduce the liability concerns for communities and how they would be impacted by insurance and the premiums. Committee had some discussion around that in trying to ensure there was a fair balance between protecting municipalities and limiting your liability, as well as ensuring that residents of the territory had a fair opportunity to address their concerns if they felt they were injured or a mishap has occurred that was due to the poor upkeep of municipal infrastructure or roads in the community. So there was some discussion about that, and committee felt that with the discussion with the NWTAC personnel we felt that we could agree with what was brought forward.

One of the other things that was fairly contentious initially was the employees on council. Committee did not agree with the bill as it came forward which would have allowed employees of councils to be elected members. Upon the public hearing process and hearing from different mayors and those responsible for community leadership and hearing that they too were of that opinion, we did manage to work with the Minister and again remove that section with the Minister's concurrence.

One of the other areas that was a concern to committee Members was the initial bill came forward with the market disruption policy, and the committee had a fair bit of discussion

back and forth on this about the merits of why that would be in the bill. Without hearing a good reason as to why it would be put forward, we've discussed with the Minister and we had his concurrence as we passed six motions that removed that from the section of the bill. Committee Members felt that the existing situations that are now used by municipalities are adequate.

There were a number of other amendments that were not very big, but there were a few of them and because of the way the act is done up meant for a lot of amendments. So that took a fair bit of time.

But committee feels generally as we bring this forward that it's been a long time in coming. We heard from the Association of Communities that much work has been done with their leaders and councils on that area, and felt that this is needed and it's good to see it come forward. So we look forward to bringing this to conclusion and hopefully bringing it to third reading in the last days of this Assembly.

Before I close, Mr. Chairman, I did mention about the committee motions and I would like to move a committee motion at this time.

#### **Committee Motion 136-14(6) To Consult And Bring Forward Amendments To The Settlements Act , Carried**

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee strongly recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs consult with the settlements of Enterprise, Fort Resolution and Colville Lake on whether the proposed amendments of the Settlements Act will meet their needs, and further that the next government bring forward appropriate amendments to the Settlements Act in the early life of the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The chair will wait until the motion has been circulated. The motion has now been circulated to all Members. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Anything further from the committee, Mr. Roland?

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bill itself, again, as I stated, committee moved that the bill would be ready for Committee of the Whole, as amended and reprinted. We would wish that the Members of this Assembly would support it and proceed with this and forward it on to third reading. I have one other point that I'd like to raise, but it's more to the actual bill itself. As we were going through it, we found something in there and just would like a clarification from this. A number of committee Members noticed it, and it's in the summary section. So I would like some...I guess maybe it's later on when we actually get into the bill that we would be doing that. So I'll wait until we actually begin clause by clause and I'll address that concern that we picked up on. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Does the Minister wish to bring in witnesses? Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in, please.

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

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, on my right is Debbie DeLancey, deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and on my left is Mark Aitken, director of legislation, Department of Justice.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Minister Steen. The chair will open the floor to general comments. I will recognize Mr. Dent.

### General Comments

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say again this is another one of those bills that I'm very happy to see come forward. There was a lot of concern a couple of years ago that it might not be coming forward, and I know over the past two years I've been hearing from members of our city council that they wanted to make sure that it came forward. So I'm glad we were able to get it to this point where we could consider it tonight. I know there was a significant concern that if we didn't bring it forward or didn't get it passed that it might have a significant impact on insurance rates for municipalities.

It was good to see it introduced, but then when it was introduced I started hearing from city council members that they had some concerns. I think from what I've seen of the committee report and from my conversations with council members that for the most part the committee and the Minister heard these concerns and made amendments. I know that in the city of Yellowknife there was a concern about the market disruption policy, and I'm pleased to see that the committee listened in that case to the concerns that were raised and that the Minister agreed with the committee on the removal of those requirements. So I think in its current form, for the most part this bill meets the expectations of the city and deals with most of the concerns that were raised.

There's one area, though, that didn't get addressed by the committee that I just need to make a comment on, and that's the long-term borrowing issue. My position would be that municipal governments are at least as responsible as this government. They are part of a democratic system. The same people who elect everybody who sits at this table elect municipal councillors. I think that we have to recognize their ability to take on the responsibility of deciding whether or not their corporation can afford to borrow money.

I'd just point out that if in fact it is the same people electing us, thank goodness we don't have to go to plebiscite every time we borrow money. The Finance Minister would be out running a plebiscite just about every second week the way we've been going lately. Given that, and the fact that we're not agreeing to long-term borrowings without going to voters' approval, I find it particularly interesting that the Association of Communities recommended that there be a requirement that municipalities prepare balanced budgets. I can remember how much pain and suffering we went through when we were required to have balanced budgets here, and I certainly haven't heard Mr. Handley calling for that sort of approach. So I think it's an indication of the maturity that's out there, the willingness to take on their own problems and deal with them. While I am

disappointed that the committee didn't agree on that one, I still think we have basically pretty good legislation here and I will be supporting it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The chair will recognize Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to make a short comment, once again. I want to make a comment in support of this bill. As has been mentioned a couple of times already, this particular bill has been in the works for at least two or three assemblies. I am sure there are employees and people involved in this bill that are going to heave a big sigh of relief once we get this through here. I understand that even our sister territory, Nunavut, has passed their version of these amendments.

Mr. Chairman, I understand this bill to be one that will empower the municipalities to govern themselves and have more power to do so, and it will also reduce the liabilities that they are responsible for at the moment where it's appropriate so that they could ease the burden of insurance premiums and such.

Throughout the review of this process, I do believe that the committee Members paid close attention with respect to balancing of interest between the municipal governments to do their job, versus the interest of the public and other stakeholders whose interest it was to protect. So there has been a lot of work done on this. Not only the employees, but the NWT Association of Communities has been very, very involved. Throughout the public hearing process, we've had the Yellowknife mayor appear before us as well as the president of the association and many other councillors and such. I do believe that this bill is a result of incorporating most of the suggestions that were made. For those suggestions that have not been incorporated, I believe it's one that the majority of the people who came to talk to us could live without because the interest is so high to have this legislation passed that all the parties involved were willing to make compromises to see the essence and the integral part of the legislation see the light of day.

I'm sure that I may have some other comments to make where it's necessary as we go through this bill. It is quite a lengthy bill and it's one that has seen lots of amendments and changes in its life until it got here. But by and large, the bill as a whole I do believe is very timely and one that a lot of people are anxious to get through. It is one that would give more power and independence to the municipal governments to make decisions about their borrowing and other aspects of liability and such. So I'll just conclude my statement there in support of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. General comments. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to go on record stating that I support this bill. For a number of years I sat as a council member in the community of Fort Providence. We raised issues and we raised concerns that we didn't have enough authority and we didn't have the tools to do a lot of the things we wanted to do. We would look at our goals and objectives and a lot of them were out of our reach because we had no mechanism, no way to really do a lot of the things we wanted to do. We raised concern at that time to anybody who would listen. We went to a lot of meetings, not only myself but many of the councillors who were on the hamlet council of Fort Providence at the time, and it seemed like nobody was listening. So I was quite happy to see this whole



bill come about. We weren't sure it was going to get to this point. It took a long time and it took a lot of work to make it become a reality.

With this bill, the communities that it affects in my riding are the community of Fort Providence and Kakisa. I don't believe the reserve is affected. But one of the communities that really had a lot of involvement and really wanted to see changes to legislation was Enterprise. Unfortunately they were not part of this as this bill does not apply to the settlements. I really encourage the department to make note of the motion that was put on the table by Mr. Roland and bring forward the appropriate amendments early in the life of the next Assembly.

I certainly welcome the new responsibilities that come with this bill, the new authority. My only concern would be if this bill adds more responsibilities and with more responsibilities comes more costs. I'm just hoping that we're not going to see any huge unexpected costs resulting from the fall of this bill. With that, I want to say that I'll be voting in favour of this piece of legislation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. General comments. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I, too, support the amendments. I think they're long overdue. We had outdated legislation. We've seen a lot of our municipalities grow over the years and they've been asking to take on more responsibilities while having more control and say on exactly how their dollars are being administered and managed. Having the expectation from the people that they represent that they are able to have meaningful say in the growth and expansion of our communities and have the ability to have the resources to make the changes that people expect without having to continue depending on outside forces to help them make those decisions.

I think it's important that, through this legislation, we do thank those people that have worked on this for some time, going back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly and now in the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly. I think it's great to see we're now in Committee of the Whole dealing with this legislation and hopefully bringing it into force.

With that, I just want to state that I do support the amendment in the bill to ensure that we do give the communities the tools they're asking. I'd like to thank the Minister and his department for the long, drawn out process in those communities and the committee that has gone out of its way to ask for public input into these amendments. With that, I will be supporting the amendments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The chair will recognize Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have some concerns particularly with the proposed sections in this bill that would authorize municipal governments to run commercial activities. I'll refer to schedule B, Cities, Towns and Villages Act, proposed section 66, which says, "A municipal corporation may provide its services on a commercial basis, including using its equipment, materials and labour, to carry out private works on private property." Mr. Chairman, I think many taxpayers and businesspeople would find this provision somewhat troublesome.

Essentially, this allows municipal governments to compete against the private sector with GNWT money or, even worse, with their own tax dollars. For example, municipal equipment like graders or bulldozers is paid for by MACA or by taxes or a combination of both. This makes for a very unfair competitive advantage because a private construction company would have to finance its own equipment. It might be enough to put some companies out of business or to discourage new companies from starting up. How, I would like to know, would this benefit our communities?

I understand that there has been a concern from the private sector in Alberta, which has similar legislation. For example, there have been instances where municipal governments have underbid private companies on construction contracts in neighbouring communities.

The other concern I have is that taxpayers' money could be put into risky ventures. What happens if the municipal business does not do as well as expected or, worse yet, fails? Does this mean that other programs and services would have to be cut in the community? Does this mean the taxes would have to go up? This should not be allowed to happen.

Mr. Chairman, I understand the concerns with mandatory market disruption policies and I understand that municipalities need revenue, but I think there has to be some mechanism to protect community residents and I do not think we should be restricting municipalities from renting out swimming pools for birthday parties or offering cooking classes. At the same time, I'm not satisfied with the suggestion that voters can have their say in municipal activities once every three years at election time. By the time residents go to the polls it may be too late. Businesses may have gone under and taxpayers' money may have been sunk into bad business ventures.

Mr. Chairman, what I would suggest is that the bill could be amended to require voter approval for any new commercial activities and this would ensure the community residents have a say more than once every three years. Anything a municipality is doing now should be allowed to continue without being subject to voter approval.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Chairman, I will be moving that these amendments be made to the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, might I also add that I don't think this is as big an issue in the communities that are regulated outside of the Cities, Towns and Villages Act. I'm particularly concerned about this in tax-based municipalities where they have established businesses in most sectors. I think this is more of a risk and a problem in those areas. When I speak to this later on it will be in reference only to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. General comments. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, I'm just seeking some clarification here. When you look at the bill itself and look at the section that's stated summary, Mr. McLeod, the Member for Deh Cho, picked up on something. We've amended the bill, for example, in the area and we've reported it in our committee report and the Minister concurred with those changes, but in the summary section it still refers to

allowing employees of hamlets and charter communities to sit as council members in similar circumstances.

I'd just like clarification that this has just been...Maybe the summary wasn't replaced or is it something else or is it actually part of the bill that we should be concerned about or is it not something? Maybe we can get that from the Law Clerk.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Can I ask the Law Clerk to give us a ruling on that?

**LAW CLERK (Ms. Peterson):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I discussed this with the draftsperson of the bill and summaries, in fact, are never changed in bills even if they have spelling mistakes or other problems with them because the summary is not actually part of a bill. When the bill actually appears in its final form, the summary will fall away, as I understand it, and the bill will stand alone without the summaries. So there's no real authority to amend a summary and because a summary's not part of the bill, that portion will not be taken out. You may wish to hear from Mr. Aitken further on that. He might be able to clarify it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Peterson. Mr. Aitken, did you have anything to add to that? Mr. Aitken.

**MR. AITKEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Peterson has correctly identified what has been the policy since I've been in the Government of the Northwest Territories. We do not amend the summary under any circumstances. The only thing I would add is that a spelling mistake would be pretty rare. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Aitken. Before I go any further, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize in the gallery representatives from the NWT Association of Communities, Yvette Gonzales, Yvonne Fleming and Eleanor Young. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Any more general comments? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I'm not clear on exactly the amendment in regards to the employees. When does that come in? Are you saying it's not going to be part of this amendment process here, that it's going to come at a later time?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Aitken.

**MR. AITKEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendments dealing with the provision that would have permitted employees to run for council, that has been dealt with. In the Hamlets Act and the Charter Communities Act that provision was removed. What was not removed and what we cannot remove is the reference in the summary, which is on page 1 of the bill, but in fact the summary has no legal effect whatsoever and, as Ms. Peterson indicated, once the bill has received assent and has been certified, the summary is removed when it's published in the annual statute volume and will not be seen again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Aitken. General comments. Detail. Clause-by-clause review of Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act. We'll proceed to clause-by-clause review of Bill 25. As we can all appreciate, this is a rather weighty piece of legislation. Although the bill itself consists of only six clauses, we will also be reviewing the four schedules to the bill which include over 500 proposed sections. In the interest of efficiency, I will suggest to committee Members that

we approach our review of these schedules as a whole. For example, I will propose to call schedule A, sections 1 through 171, then schedule B and so on. Does the committee agree with this approach?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Clause By Clause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Let's proceed then to clause-by-clause review. We'll stand down the six enactment clauses and first consider the schedules in the order that they are presented in the bill. Schedule A, Chartered Communities Act. This begins on page 18 of the bill, sections 1 through 171.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Schedule B, Cities, Towns and Villages Act, page 106, sections 1 through 68. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister if he could describe for me what a municipal corporation investment plan is.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mrs. Groenewegen, could you clarify which section you are referring to in the bill? Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I'm referring to section 67(1).

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Section 67, schedule B. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'll ask Mr. Aitken to respond to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Aitken.

**MR. AITKEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm still trying to find the reference that Mrs. Groenewegen is concerned with.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 133, section 67. Mr. Aitken. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, Ms. DeLancey is prepared to respond to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. DeLancey.

**MS. DELANCEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, the investment plan is defined in the definitions on page 107 of the act when it talks about a plan to manage a municipal corporation's investments. Basically, what's envisioned in the act here is a broader range of investment powers for a municipal corporation, in this case a city, town or village. The act requires them to develop a five-year investment plan that would lay out for consideration by council and by the public the types of investments that they might get involved in and so on.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the investment plan that would be developed by the municipality would require the Minister's approval. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Ms. DeLancey.

**MS. DELANCEY:** Yes, that's correct, Mr. Chairman. It states in section 67, clause 1.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, it says that the council may, with the approval of the Minister or if authorized by the municipal corporation of investment plan, establish a corporation or hold shares in a corporation for a municipal purpose. It says "or", so my question is still the same. Is the municipal corporation investment plan required to be approved by the Minister?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I will ask Mr. Aitken to respond to that as that's a legal question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Aitken.

**MR. AITKEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The definition "investment plan" on page 107 refers to a plan adopted under section 128 to manage municipal corporations' investments. Subsection 128(2) says, "A bylaw adopting an investment plan is not valid unless it is approved by the Minister." So I believe that would be the answer to Mrs. Groenewegen's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Aitken. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So is the municipal corporation's investment plan, it's required to be approved by the Minister, but is it required to be approved by the voters in that community? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Aitken.

**MR. AITKEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Subsection 128(5) says that a copy of the municipal corporation's investment plan must be made available to the public. It does not appear that it has to be approved by the public, but it does have to be available to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Aitken. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** So are there certain types of investments that a community would be authorized to invest the municipality's money in and, if so, could the Minister please give me an example of what kinds of investments would be approved? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Steen, you're referring the question to Ms. DeLancey. Ms. DeLancey.

**MS. DELANCEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a little bit of detail in the bill, section 67(2) talks about a corporation being established where its shares are being held solely by the municipal corporation or jointly with one or more parties. The intent here is to allow municipalities to establish required shares in a corporation. So that's one of the kinds of investments that the law provides for. The bill itself does not go

into a great deal more detail than that and that's an issue that in the implementation process we would expect to provide some more detail in the regulations.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at this time we're being asked to pass this legislation, but we don't know what kinds of investments a municipal corporation could put the community's money into. Is that correct? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Ms. DeLancey.

**MS. DELANCEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct. The regulations will be developed as part of the implementation plan to the legislation, which will be rolled out once the bill is given third reading, again in consultation and working closely with the Association of Communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Minister or his staff could be some kind of idea what they would envision that a municipal corporation would be allowed to invest money in. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Ms. DeLancey.

**MS. DELANCEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some examples of the types of investments that might commonly be entered into by municipalities would include investment pools, some provinces actually have municipal investment pools; public utilities or franchises like electrical franchises. Those are the kinds of things that are envisioned.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Somewhere else in the act, does it set a dollar value? If a municipality decided to invest money in a certain venture, is there any cap on the amount of money that they could invest in that venture or in investment portfolio without seeking the approval of the voters or the ratepayers? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Ms. DeLancey.

**MS. DELANCEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there is no ceiling in the legislation. There is requirement that an investment plan can only be for a five-year duration, but there is no financial limit to the investments in the legislation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to Section 68(1), a municipal corporation may encourage economic development for a municipal purpose, including the establishment, expansion or a continuation of a business or an industry in the municipality in any manner it considers appropriate. But when we go on to section two, it says a municipal corporation shall not purchase share or provide loans

or guarantees to encourage economic development. Just for clarification, could the Minister please rationalize the distinction between those two? They seem, at first glance, to contradict each other.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Aitken.

**MR. AITKEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think 68(1) refers to thinks that a municipal corporation may encourage. It may encourage economic development for municipal purposes including encouraging the establishment expansion, continuation of a business or interest or industry in the municipality. So it can, for instance, perhaps offer that it will pave a road out to an industrial development area or it may offer that we, in some other way, encourage the industry to establish itself there, but it is limited by subsection two in that it may not purchase shares in a corporation that's an established industry and it may not provide loans or guarantees to encourage the establishment of the industry in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Aitken. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, then a corporation shall not purchase shares and yet we just heard if it's within the municipal corporation's investment plan, they could in fact establish a corporation or acquire shares in a corporation or a municipal purpose. I find that a little confusing as well. So perhaps the Minister or his officials could explain how according to their investment plan, they could acquire and hold shares but section 68(2) says shall not purchase shares or provide loan guarantees to encourage economic development. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Ms. DeLancey.

**MS. DELANCEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say 68(2) is intended to limit or put some brakes on the broader interpretation of what kinds of investments the municipal corporation can enter into. So although it may appear to be contradictory, this is meant to preclude them entering directly into these kinds of investments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** So, Mr. Chairman, when Ms. DeLancey says it would put the brakes on investing in these kinds of investments versus investments for municipal purpose, what is the distinction there?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Ms. DeLancey.

**MS. DELANCEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there is not a greater degree of definition in the bill at this point than what is provided here. Again, it is envisioned that for some of these provisions, regulations will provide greater clarity. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So going back to 68(1), a municipal corporation can encourage economic development. So giving the example then of building a road to a certain site that would help establish, expand or continue a business or industry in the community, is there any

ceiling anticipated with respect to that or is it wide open? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Aitken.

**MR. AITKEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I am understanding Mrs. Groenewegen's question. Section 67 is limited by subsection 67(2), which refers to what a corporation may be established for and what its shares may be acquired or held for. The shares will be held completely by in this corporation and it can only be held jointly with another party if it's for the purposes of section 61, 62 or 63. Quickly flipping back, we are dealing on 61 with an agreement with an agent to provide a service, public utility or facility as an agent of a corporation; 62 deals with the delegation to another government or entity of the authority for administering or delivering any service or program on behalf of a municipal corporation; and, 63 deals with the authorizing the municipal corporation itself to act as a delegate of another government or entity for purposes of delivering services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Aitken. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I guess what I am trying to get at here is how much latitude a municipal corporation has with respect to the use of taxpayers' money without having to seek approval in some form from the ratepayers. I guess that's just a check and balance that I am interested in and concerned about. I don't think there's necessarily anything wrong with any of these things that are anticipated that we are talking about including municipalities generating revenue other than from taxation of property, but I do think that there needs to be mechanism in place to ensure that where these are of a substantive nature that there be some way for ratepayers, voters, the electorate to participate more thoroughly than just once every three years when they elect the mayor and municipal council. So I was disappointed to see that the committee hadn't felt it necessary to put those kinds of restrictions in this legislation. That's all I have to say at this time on those sections, 1 to 68, in schedule B. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Schedule B, Cities, Towns and Villages Act, page 106 of the bill, section 1 through 68.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Committee Motion 137-14(6) To Amend Schedule B Of Bill 25, Defeated**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a motion. I move that schedule B of Bill 25 be amended by adding the following after proposed section 68:

69. (1) A municipal corporation that intends to engage in the activity of selling products or services commercially, using municipal equipment, materials and labour to carry out private works on private property or establishing a business, must first by bylaw approved by the voters, authorize that activity.

(2) Subsection 1) does not apply in respect of any activity engaged in by the municipal corporation before this section comes into force. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The motion is being circulated. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? To the motion. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

We will go on to schedule B, section 70 through 167.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Schedule C, Hamlets Act, on page 192 of the bill, sections 1 through 169.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Schedule D, consequential amendments on page 264 of the bill, sections 1 through 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Clause By Clause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Let's return to the enacting clause found on page 4 of the bill. Clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does committee agree that Bill 25 is ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill 25 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing.

---Applause

#### Bill 31, An Act To Amend The Official Languages Act, No. 3

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We will go on to review Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 3. Does the Minister have any opening comments? Mr. Ootes.

#### Minister's Opening Comments

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Merci beaucoup, mahsi cho, qujannamiik and thank you, Mr. Chair. I am here to address Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 3.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment received the Report from the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act in mid-March. Since that time, we have reviewed the report, met with the accountability and oversight committee Members in early June, with my colleagues and government officials, developed a GNWT response and made a presentation to AOC on September 19, 2003.

On September 30, 2003, I tabled the GNWT response to the special committee's report highlighting the actions being taken by the present government. On October 2, 2003, I introduced in the Assembly Bill 31, before you today.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members on the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act for its hard work and the chair, Mr. Steven Nitah, for his commitment to languages in the NWT.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 31 is an initial step to laying a strong foundation to implement the special committee's recommendations. Bill 31 achieves the committee's desire for an aboriginal languages board by proposing the creation of an aboriginal languages revitalization board. The board will be charged with the important task of aboriginal languages maintenance, promotion and revitalization.

The board will also take over the responsibility for languages promotion from the Official Languages Commissioner.

The board members will consist of one member from each aboriginal language community, nominated by their respective communities.

This bill will also create an official languages board.

Through this board, all NWT official languages, both aboriginal and non-aboriginal, will be represented. This board provides all official languages committees with the opportunity to advise and make recommendations to the Minister on the administration and delivery of services by government institutions.

This board will have one member from each aboriginal languages community as well as an English and French member. Members will also be nominated by their respective language communities.

For both of these boards, Bill 31 proposes that members be appointed by the Executive Council on the advice of the Minister and, of course, the language community.

Bill 31 also introduces changes to the mandate of the office of the Official Languages Commissioner and designates a minister responsible for the act.

In addition to this, the bill makes a number of changes as requested by the special committee. These include:

- Amending the preamble to the act to recognize the important role of language communities in preserving and developing their own languages.
- Recognizing North Slavey, South Slavey, Inuvialuktun and Inuinaqtun in section 4 of the act, and remove them from the interpretation section;
- Removing repealed sections of the act and correct spelling, terminology and translation errors;
- Addition provisions for the government to respond to the annual report of the Official Languages Commissioner within 180 days of tabling of the annual report;
- Adding provisions for the recognition of the collective language rights of aboriginal people within their homelands; and,
- Adding provisions for smaller scale evaluations every five years beginning in 2008.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 31 will set the direction for the future preservation of languages in the NWT. The two board structures proposed here will support all minority languages while addressing the critical and immediate need to revitalize, maintain and promote our disappearing aboriginal languages. Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The chair will recognize the chairman of the standing committee, Mr. Dent.

#### **Standing Committee On Accountability And Oversight Comments**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight conducted a public hearing on Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 3 on October 7, 2003 in Yellowknife.

The committee would like to thank Ms. Sabet Biscaye, Ms. Dorothy Minoza, and Ms. Betty Harnum who were able to appear at the hearing despite the short notice. Members would also like to thank the NWT Literacy Council, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre for their written submissions.

The committee recognizes that stakeholders were given a very limited opportunity to prepare comments on the bill. Had the government introduced a bill that responded adequately to the recommendations of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act in the June 2003 sitting, the committee and the public would have had time to properly review it. Instead, the committee was put in the position of having to choose between proceeding with Bill 31 despite the limited time for public review, or leaving this important legislation to the next Assembly. Because Bill 31 in most aspects reflects the recommendations of the special committee, which undertook a very comprehensive consultation process, and because of concerns that the next assembly may not have an opportunity to revisit this legislation for some time, the committee chose to proceed with reporting this bill back to the House as the better of two less than ideal options.

Mr. Chairman, the most significant change in Bill 31 from the recommendations of the special committee is the creation of an official languages board in addition to an aboriginal languages revitalization board. Both Members and those who made

submissions to the committee questioned the need for the official languages board, which was not part of the special committee's recommendations. The Minister indicated that this board is needed to provide all official language communities with the opportunity to advise and make recommendations to the Minister on the administration and delivery of services by government institutions. The committee was put in the difficult position of deciding whether to support the creation of this second board in the absence of research and consultation substantiating the need for it. Left with this choice, Members preferred to err on the side of providing an opportunity for all language groups to have representation on a board, and therefore did not propose any amendments to this part of the bill.

Ms. Minoza and the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre questioned the need for the aboriginal languages revitalization board, and suggested they would have preferred resources be directed to community or regional language groups instead. The committee respectfully disagrees with the suggestion that the board will not be a useful resource for community and regional language groups, and notes that the recommendation to have this board was arrived at after two years of research and consultations with all language groups by the special committee.

Ms. Biscaye and Ms. Harnum raised concerns that the responsibilities of the Minister responsible for official languages are not broad enough. For example, the Minister's responsibilities include the promotion of official languages education, but do not clearly include the promotion of official languages in other government institutions such as courts and health facilities. The Minister's responsibilities are also limited to GNWT policies and programs that relate to the administration of this act. The committee would like to see this expanded so that the responsibilities include all GNWT policies and programs that relate to official languages, whether or not they relate specifically to the administration of this act. At the appropriate time, Members will be supporting amendments that will broaden the responsibilities of the Minister.

Ms. Harnum raised some specific issues about how language funding is being spent and the accountability for that spending. The committee acknowledges that these are valid concerns, but believes they would be more appropriately addressed by other special committee recommendations rather than by amendments to this act.

The Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre expressed concerns that Inuktitut will be continued as an official language. The centre is concerned that there is a potential for Inuit specific language money that could otherwise be used for Inuvialuktun and Inuinaqtun to be diverted to a small group of Inuktitut speakers. The majority of Members agreed that it would be unfair to remove Inuktitut at this time without consultation with Inuktitut speakers in the NWT.

The NWT Literacy Council, Ms. Biscaye and committee Members questioned how the Minister will go about prescribing representatives from each language community. Ms. Biscaye underlined the need for representatives to be accountable back to their language communities, and for this to be reflected in policies or guidelines if not in legislation. Members and the NWT Literacy Council asked about how representation will be sought from the English language community in particular. The Minister and his staff advised that, with the exception of English, there are specific organizations for each of the language communities that have been working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and that

will likely become the prescribed representatives under the act. The Minister and his staff admitted that more thought needs to be given to how the English language community will be represented. Members will look forward to hearing how this issue is resolved.

Ms. Biscaye also suggested there is a need to change the references to some of the Dene languages in the act which are not the proper names for those languages. She did stress that further research and consultation is needed before this can be done. Members were pleased that the Minister indicated his interest in pursuing this research, and would encourage the next assembly to ensure this does take place.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 31. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, to the assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Does the Minister wish to bring in witnesses? Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in, please.

For the record, Mr. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, I missed the comment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Could you introduce your witnesses, for the record, please?

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** On my left is Mark Aitken, legal counsel; and, on my right is Dan Daniels, assistant deputy minister responsible for education and culture.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The chair will open the floor to general comments. Mr. Nitah.

#### General Comments

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I welcome this bill wholeheartedly. The people of the Northwest Territories wanted a tool to assist them in keeping their languages alive, the aboriginal communities, especially. This may not be the best tool, but it's the best tool we could come up with. Languages do belong to the people. The governments of yesterday had a lot to do with the loss of aboriginal languages, especially in this country and in the Northwest Territories. Our government saw fit to change some of the rules to improve the act to assist the aboriginal language communities to revitalize their languages.

At the end of the day, Mr. Chairman, all this bill is a tool and a commitment from this government that they will assist the language communities in retaining the languages, revitalizing the language that are on the brink and develop new languages consistent with the devolution of the English language, the dominant language in Western society.

Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to be a Member of this Legislative Assembly and the opportunity to chair the special committee that worked on the review of the official languages and making the recommendations that this House accepted, all 65 of them. In record time, if I could mention that, Mr. Chairman. Again, I'd like to thank the language communities, the special interest groups and all those people we consulted with and who took the time to consult with us. I'd like to thank the committee Members; my colleagues, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Bell, Mr. Krutko; Minister Allen and his staff; Benoit Boutin; the Clerk, David Hamilton, and his office; Denise and all the other people who have put their hearts and souls into the work that took two years.

I look forward to giving you the territorial assent for this bill and make the new Official Languages Act a law in this territory so that we could put in stone the commitment of this government to assist the language communities to ensure that the diversification of cultures and languages will thrive in the future of the Northwest Territories to make it truly a multi-cultural society. I think that's one thing as Northerners we all aspire to and this bill will assist in doing that. Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, want to speak in support of Bill 31 and I also want to congratulate the Minister for bringing this bill forward. This late in the game we're still very happy that we're able to bring it in front of this House during the life of this Assembly. I spoke over the years of my satisfaction and the concerns raised by my constituents that the issue of language was really all over the place. Funding was kind of piecemeal, inconsistent. There was really no roadmap to follow. Nobody was in charge. With this bill it kind of puts the languages communities back into the driver's seat.

I had the good fortune of sitting on the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act. We did tour a lot of the Northwest Territories over the last while. We heard a lot of very emotional, very passionate statements being made. It was really good to meet all the people out there.

I think the report that the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act did was very thorough. We heard a lot of statements and messages, especially from the aboriginal people, that I think were very consistent. After a while you could pick out what was being said, right from the time we had our consultation hearings and meeting on the Hay River Reserve. We had an elder tell us that we couldn't separate language, we couldn't deal with language in isolation. We had to tie it to the land. It had to be tied to people. It had to be tied to history. Only then could we deal with languages.

So that was always in the forefront of our thinking. There are still many issues out there that were in our report that can't be covered under this act, but I'm hoping we'll see them come through in terms of policy or in the regulations. We also have some more research that has to be done in some areas. The Michif language is still out there floating in limbo. We recommended that it be recognized as a heritage language. It deserves to have some research done on it.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank some members of my community that came up. Especially Dorothy Minoza for coming to speak to the AOC. It was short notice and they managed to send some people.

In closing, I want to say that language revitalization has a long ways to go before we can consider it safe. Almost every aboriginal language out there, the use has declined. We have to do many things. We have to start looking at developing cultural centres, on-the-land programs, immersion programs. We need to start looking at language development. There are so many new words out there that need to be translated into an aboriginal language. We came across in the government a lot of examples of words that are circulating now in the English language that there are no words for it in the aboriginal languages.

We certainly have to focus on the youth and all this is going to require more funding. However, when we provide funding to the language communities we also have to realize that the language communities, the schools and this government have to be more accountable for language funding. It has to be spent on languages. Too often, we see the money being used for other things, for teachers, special needs teachers or things that have no real association with language. The first people that are let go in the schools once the money becomes a problem are the language instructors. To start with, the language instructors are underpaid, they're not given the credit that's due them.

We have a lot of things we have to do, but I think the passing of this bill will go a long way. It's a huge step and something that I will be supporting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. General comments. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a Member of the special committee that travelled around the North to hear from language communities, to hear from interested residents, I have to say that it's particularly gratifying that this legislation has come before us now and will likely be passed before the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly fades and goes off and the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly takes over where it left off. This was one of the things that I felt was very important for us to finish so that we could have some sense of completion, so that the people of the Northwest Territories could recognize that after this 10-year review there would be an effort to improve the use of languages in the Northwest Territories.

I have to say that, I think, in our travels the one thing that I was most struck by, maybe, was the level of interest around the Territories, particularly in small communities. Particularly from aboriginal language groups. The concern about the loss of language and the realization, for me, Mr. Chairman, that there are generations of people who do not have use of the language anymore. The elders are typically hanging on to the language. But, Mr. Chairman, as they leave us, oftentimes their children have not kept up use of the language and, therefore, their children as well, in turn, do not have the language.

We are starting to see some revitalization of the languages in schools, but it's very difficult for the youngest children, school-age children, who come home and have parents who have lost their language.

The francophone community, it was also interesting, was very concerned about accountability of language funding. How it was being spent, where it was being spent and whether there was adequate reporting going on so that this money could be tracked and accounted for. They also, I think, were insistent that there be a Minister responsible for official languages; somebody that could be held to account. It was interesting to see for me that the francophone community was really

concerned about the provision of services in their language, whereas some of the aboriginal language communities I think felt that it was much more important to concentrate, acknowledging that we have limited dollars, on revitalization of language. I can't remember who talked to us about this, but somebody made the point, a number of people made the point, that provision of service is fine and it is important, but there will be no one to use these services in these languages if we don't do something about revitalization of languages.

Mr. McLeod spoke of Daniel Sonfrere who spoke and presented to us on the Hay River Reserve. Indeed, he did feel that the focus couldn't be limited to just language, that in fact we had to ensure that it was linked with culture. The two could not be separated and government and the people had to make efforts to acknowledge this and recognize it.

I think for our part we had a lot of discussion as a committee about making sure that our recommendations were doable. There were many things that could have been done and I think we wanted to focus and concentrate on the things that we knew the government could achieve and would not get lost. We were very conscious of not wanting to have a report with very nice sounding, but seriously expensive recommendations that would gather dust on a shelf somewhere. I think we've achieved that. I think this bill is ambitious, but it's also reasonable in its scope and reasonable in its attempt at dealing with our language challenges.

As Mr. Nitah, I think, said, there are consequential amendments to come. We hope they will come to other bills; the Education Act, most notably. It will be up to this Assembly and the next Assembly to keep the Minister's feet to the fire to ensure that those actions are taken so that we can have a comprehensive overhaul of our language system and work and do what we can to make sure we don't lose our languages and make sure there are provisions of service in the official languages where it's required.

I think that's about all I have to say, Mr. Chairman, except again to reiterate that it's very gratifying as a Member of the committee to finally see this come forward. I want to thank, certainly, our committee chairman, Mr. Nitah, and all of our colleagues on the committee. We did a lot of hard work over the last two years. I thank all the people who showed real interest in coming out to make presentations to the committee. Thank you.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. General comments. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep it short, but I wanted to state for the record the concerns that we heard in committee through those presenters that were able to appear and those that sent in written submissions. Although we heard in the chairman's remarks to this bill, a concern we had to decide as a committee if because of the lack of time to consult with individuals on the addition of a second board, it was either we proceed with this or we decide if the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly should do further work on it. But, as stated by many of my colleagues here that were on the committee, there was a lot of work done on this and it would be a shame to see it not move forward. As stated by other Members, it was good to see that the majority of recommendations made by the special committee are in this act and deserves to move forward and see completion, at least to the stage it's at, by this government.



Mr. Chairman, I myself, being Inuvialuit, fall into the category that Members speak about. My ability to speak my own language is very limited. I can understand when my parents would talk and I could repeat some words to them, but to actually carry on a conversation I'd be lost, Mr. Chairman. That's something that is of a concern when you look at the population of Inuvialuit left in the Northwest Territories. We are a minority amongst aboriginal peoples and it's important that we do continue to strive to ensure that our children have the ability to pick up the language, as well as the history and the culture of their people. I'm happy to say that through the education systems in the community of Inuvik they have language classes where I can have my children in there learning at a young age to speak their language. Hopefully at some time they'll be able to beat me in my ability to speak Inuvialuktun and maybe have a good conversation with their daduk, as we say in our language, and go forward from there. It especially hit me this past summer when my mother had said to me, speak to me in Inuvialuktun, and I couldn't. Not a complete sentence.

It's something that is timely and important for our children. So, excuse me, I must congratulate the government and the committee for their hard work. I apologize for this. Thank you.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. General comments. Does the committee agree to clause by clause?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

#### Clause By Clause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 3, clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 5. Mr. Lafferty.

#### Committee Motion 138-14(6) To Amend Clause 5 Of Bill 31 In Proposed Section 4, Carried

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that clause 5 of Bill 31 be amended by deleting proposed section 4 and by substituting the following:

4. Chipewyan, Cree, English, French, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tlicho are the official languages of the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The motion has been circulated. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Yes, I understand the Member has checked with his language community. I just wondered if he'd checked with anyone in the Dettah/Ndilo area on this, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. This was a request from the Dogrib leaders and upon speaking to their chief negotiator I was given advice to go ahead with the name change. I think at one time they may have written a letter to the committee suggesting that this name be changed in the future.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 5, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 8. Mr. Lafferty.

#### Committee Motion 139-14(6): To Amend Clause 8 Of Bill 31 In Proposed Subsection 12(2), Carried

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that clause 8 of Bill 31 be amended by deleting proposed subsection 12(2) and by substituting the following:

(2) Chipewyan, Cree, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tlicho may be used by any person in any court established by the legislature. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The motion has been circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 8, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 9.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 10.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 11.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 12.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 13.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 14.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 15.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 16. Mr. Roland.

**Committee Motion 140-14(6) To Amend Clause 16 Of Bill 31 In Proposed Subsection 25.1(1), Carried**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to move a motion. I move that clause 16 of Bill 31 be amended by striking out "relate to the administration of this act" and by substituting "relate to official languages" in proposed subsection 25.1(1). Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The motion has been circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 16 as amended. Mr. Dent.

**Committee Motion 141-14(6) To Amend Clause 16 Of Bill 31 In Proposed Subsection 25.1(2), Carried**

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, I have a further motion for consideration for clause 16. I move that proposed subsection 25.1(2) of clause 16 of Bill 31 be amended by

- (a) striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (b);
- (b) striking out the period at the end of paragraph (c) and substituting a semi-colon;
- (c) adding the following after paragraph (c);
- (d) promote the use of official languages in the administration and deliver of programs and services by government institutions; and
- (e) encourage the maintenance and revitalization of aboriginal languages.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 16, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 17. Mr. Lafferty.

**Committee Motion 142-14(6) To Amend Clause 17 Of Bill 31 In Proposed Subsection 25.5(1), Carried**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that clause 17 of Bill 31 be amended by deleting proposed subsection 25.5(1) and by substituting the following:

25.5(1) An aboriginal languages revitalization board is established comprised of at least one member of each of the Chipewyan, Cree, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tlicho language communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I am not sure I understood the member reading that out. Could he read it out again, please?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Steen. The motion has been read into the record and you do have a hard copy in front of you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 17, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Lafferty.

**Committee Motion 143-14(6) To Amend Clause 17 Of Bill 31 In Proposed Subsection 25.3(1), Carried**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** I move that clause 17 of Bill 31 be amended by deleting proposed subsection 25.3(1) and by substituting the following:

25.3(1) An official languages board is established comprised of at least one member of at least the Chipewyan, Cree, English, French, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tlicho language communities.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 17, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 18.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 19.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 20.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 21.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill as a whole, as amended?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the committee agree that Bill 31 is ready for third reading, as amended?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill 31 is now ready for third reading as amended.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing.

Does the committee agree that consideration of Committee Report 18-14(6) and Committee Report 19-14(6) is also concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** There is a motion on the floor. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The chair will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

#### ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. DELOREY:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering bills 32, 22, 24, 25 and 31 and Committee Report 18-14(6) and Committee Report 19-14(6) and would like to report progress with seven motions being adopted, that Committee Report 18-14(6) and Committee Report 19-14(6) are concluded, that Bills 32, 22, 24 and 25 are ready for third reading, that Bill 31 is ready for third reading as amended and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Nahendeh seconds the motion. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

#### ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 21: Protection Against Family Violence Act

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 21 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

##### Bill 33: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2002-2003

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 33, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2002-2003, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 33 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 22, Orders of the Day.

#### ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, again at 10:30 and of the Board of Management at 12:00 noon.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions

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6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery ---ADJOURNMENT
7. Oral Questions The House adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Relies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
- Motion 21-14(6), Censure of the Minister of Health and Social Services
17. First Reading of Bills
- Bill 29, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Act
  - Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 2
18. Second Reading of Bills
- Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act
  - Minister's Statement 89-14(6), Infrastructure Canada Commits \$65 Million to NWT Resource Highways
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
- Bill 22, Waste Reduction and Recovery Act
  - Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act
  - Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act
  - Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 3
  - Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2003-2004
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 9, 2003, at 1:30 p.m.

